Hafa Adai!

Crew of stranded fishing vessel still in quarantine in Yap. PAGE 2

Additional Star Marianas flights between Saipan and Rota. PAGE 5

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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SEAFARING OUTREACH

If you were driving alongside Beach Road last Monday afternoon, the sight of two proas (indigenous canoes) sailing by the Kilili Beach shoreline would have caught your attention. The non-profit organization 500 Sails is inviting families, friends, and community members to set sail on a short trip aboard the boats. 500 Sails event coordinator Mario Benito explained that they have been planning this seafaring outreach for awhile now, to teach the new generation about the seafaring life and as a means to preserve this aspect of the CNMI culture. 500 Sails president Art De Oro wants the community to take this opportunity, which will take place every Sunday. For more information, you can call De Oro at (671) 688-4262, or you can follow their Facebook page and Instagram page @500Sails.

3rd tranche of child tax out; fourth batch is coming soon

» **Partial first batch of $5M income tax refunds may be out late this week**

» **To date, Finance released $8M in child tax credits**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Atalig

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig disclosed that they have already released the third batch of child tax credits in the amount of $300,000 and that a fourth batch in the amount of $300,000 more is forthcoming.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s follow-up question yesterday, Atalig said they have released about $8 million in child tax credits to date.

He said the first batch of child tax credits was worth $6 million and the second batch was $1.5 million.

The secretary discussed the release of child tax credits during a radio news briefing last Friday. In that same briefing, Atalig also disclosed that they are preparing to release at the end of this week the first batch

See TAX on **Page 4**

Pork meal leads to a lawsuit

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man, who alleges that the Department of Corrections served him pork even though he told them it is against his religion, has brought his complaint to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam,

See PORK on **Page 4**

Next House minority leader up in the air

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Minority members in the House of Representatives will have to wait who Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will appoint to replace Edwin K. Propst, who resigned last week as representative for Precinct 1, before they could decide on who will serve as the bloc's minority leader.

Villagomez

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said in an interview Thursday that the minority bloc hasn't even discussed who will replace Propst as

See HOUSE on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CNMI logs 2 more COVID-19 cases

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Two more arriving passengers have tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the CNMI's cumulative total of confirmed cases to 75.

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

See COVID-19 on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 5, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,699	0	2,699
Recovered	1,887	0	1,887
Active	761	0	761
Deaths	52	0	52
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			51,300

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	73	2	75
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Jack in the Box plans to open a second restaurant in Guam by the end of 2021.

PAGE 11

NATION
Infected and contagious, President Donald Trump briefly ventured out in a motorcade.

PAGE 12

ASIA
India registers 75,829 confirmed coronaviruses cases, a day after crossing 100,000 fatalities.

PAGE 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Photo of vessel stranded on reef. JOYCE MCCLURE

Crew of stranded fishing vessel still in quarantine in Yap

COLONIA, Yap—The crew of a Taiwanese fishing vessel that ran aground on the reef surrounding the island of Yap remains in quarantine and have already been tested twice for COVID-19, all with negative results.

The grounding occurred at 2am last Sept. 17, 2020, and the vessel began taking on water. When the Yap Fishing Authority received word of the emergency, the crew were directed to get into their own lifeboat and were towed into the harbor while a team from several Yap agencies worked to quickly offload the fuel and the four tons of catch on the ship.

The vessel, operated by Liancheng Overseas Fishery Co. Ltd and owned by Huang Shau-Chou., is manned by nine crew members and operates legally within waters of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Due to a strict travel ban preventing any passengers from arriving by sea or air during the COVID-19 pandemic, the crew were immediately put into quarantine for 28 days and housed in tents set up in an isolated area on the dock. Security was sent to the site to ensure that none of them leave the isolated area and no unauthorized visitors enter the area.

Wearing personal protective equipment, medical personnel trained in COVID-19 testing administered the test on the first and seventh days after the crew's arrival. All were negative. Another test will be administered toward the end of their quarantine and they are being monitored for any symptoms of the virus until then.

The fate of the ship is now being decided. The preference is for sinking it 12 miles out from the southern tip of the island. However, it is reported that this type of vessel is not easy to sink. In the meantime, residents on the mainland have complained about the smell of rotting bait that was not offloaded. This and all other matters relating to the vessel are being addressed by the Incident Commander, Victor Bamog, director of the Office of Planning & Budget, and the emergency planning team.

The case has gone to court and has been flagged for expediting to allow the crew to leave as soon as possible. ***(PR)***

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*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rates

'New permitting process easier'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The administration is working on a new permitting process that will make it easier for businesses this new fiscal year, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said it's been a long wait for businesses, but the administration is trying to streamline the process.

"So, hopefully, in this new fiscal year, we'll see those changes very soon," the governor said. He did not elaborate what those changes are.

At the same time, Torres has asked the Legislature to look into more new revenue-generating bills. He also asked Finance Secretary David Atalig to be aggressive in collecting taxes that are owed the CNMI and in assisting new businesses.

"It's a new fiscal year. We have a lot of work to do," the governor said.

Atalig said the Legislature's passage of the government's budget bill and the governor signing it into law gives the administration a "game plan" on how to manage the financial resources that's available.

"Hopefully, as the months move forward, we can have the additional resources that can assist different agencies that we need to help fund," Atalig said.

He reiterated Torres' appreciation to the Legislature and the staff of the governor's office in ensuring that the budget was enacted on time, thus averting a government shutdown.

Under the bill that Torres signed early Thursday morning, the revenue and resources available for appropriation for government activities in fiscal year 2021 is $96,476,054 and $4,556,164 from the Department of Public Lands, for a grand total of $101,032,218.

SHEFA eyes waiving 'touchback rule' for active-duty

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is looking into waving the requirement for SHEFA recipients who are on active-duty in the U.S. military from returning to the CNMI at once and working here.

SHEFA board member Kaelani Demapan suggested waiving this requirement for recipients who are enlisted in active-duty. Demapan added that they are looking into offering this relief based on the number of years the recipient has served in the armed forces.

Section 8 of SHEFA rules requires recipient to come back to Saipan nine months after completing their degree or six months after non-enrollment. Once the person is back on Saipan, they have to work in the private or public sector for a minimum of three years. Recipients who fail to abide by this rule are considered debtors who must repay the money SHEFA gave them, or be considered in default. Under SHEFA's Title 165, local rules and regulations, section 11, a SHEFA recipient who is enlisted in the U.S. armed forces can request for a deferral of this requirement.

SHEFA board member Oscar M. Babauta said there needs more clarification on active duty, adding that, before they can go any further, their legal counsel has to look into the language of "prior, before, during, or after" an individual's service to determine if one has defaulted.

Babauta said he agrees with the proposal but wants more clarification on how SHEFA can make this amendment.

Vice chairman Juan K. Tenorio also agrees that it needs to be "more solid and more effective," adding that the proposal can be used as a guideline on how they can approach the proposal and come up with a well-grounded regulation.

Free webinar on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in October. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

On Oct. 8, the webinar is called "All Small Mentor-Protégé Program." Small businesses can team up with large businesses and go after contracts normally set-aside for small businesses only. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply for this SBA program.Register at http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

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October is Humanities Month

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council held its first virtual proclamation last Oct. 5, with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declaring October as CNMI Humanities Month. Council members were also in attendance to witness the proclamation.

"We're here today to celebrate the importance of the humanities throughout our islands. By definition…the humanities include a wide range of disciplines, including history, religion, literature, philosophy, jurisprudence, and art," said vice chair Isa Arriola.

"As we sign this proclamation today, let's be reminded of our CNMI people's deep and rich histories, our presence and our futures, that continue to inform the ways that we know and share with the world," said Arriola.

Leo Pangelinan, Humanities Council director, read the English version of the proclamation, while board member Carol Peter Hosono read the Carolinian version. Colin Jay Cruz, who is the board member for Rota, read the Chamorro version.

According to Pangelinan, the major goal at the Humanities Council is to preserve and promote the indigenous cultures and languages within the CNMI.

"I want to thank the Humanities Council, for continuing its effort to make sure that we continue to live our lives, look at our history, and look at who we are as a people in the community, and how we have advanced, and how some of those tenets of our society continue to be relevant to us and continues to guide us," said Palacios.

The Humanities Council has set up Friday interviews for what it calls Humanities Fridays with different panelists who will discuss history, projects, culture, and other current events throughout the month of October.

These guests include Sophia Perez, Soroptimists of the NMI (Maureen Sebangiol, Marilynn Marron, and Pam Brown), Hanna Jugo, Fu'una Sanz, Thomas Mangloña, Vana Quichocho, Joey P. San Nicholas and Kimberly King-Hinds, and Kayle Tydingco.

2 defendants allegedly violate release conditions

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Two federal inmates in a methamphetamine or "ice" case are summoned to appear before the U.S District Court for the NMI for allegedly violating the terms of their release when they tested positive for the drug.

Evelyn Chong Tydingco and Vince Koki Leon Guerrero are summoned to appear in a federal court hearing to determine whether to modify or revoke their release conditions.

In his petition to the court, U.S. Probation Officer Greg Arriola said that Tydingco and Leon Guerrero have both tested positive for the use of methamphetamine and amphetamine. Arriola noted that Tydingco and Leon Guerrero also diluted their urine samples.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted Arriola's request and scheduled a revocation hearing for Oct. 9 at 11am.

Leon Guerrero, Tydingco, and co-defendant Elaine Francisco Demei, in their respective court hearings, pleaded guilty to possessing 50 grams of "ice" with intent to distribute.

Manglona allowed the defendants to remain free with conditions.

According to the plea agreement, between Feb. 15 and 21, 2018, Leon Guerrero conspired with Tydingco and Demei to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute it to others on Saipan.

The package containing methamphetamine was sent from California and was addressed to "Debbie Lee."

On Feb. 21, 2018, upon arrival of the package, the three defendants picked up the parcel at the post office in San Vicente.

The methamphetamine in the package had a net weight of 110.03 grams and an approximate purity level of 100%.

Tydingco, Leon Guerrero, and Demei have allegedly admitted to picking up a package from the post office.

The U.S. government wants to forfeit any money or property from the offense upon conviction of the defendants.

Punishment for the drug charges includes a fine of up to $10 million and imprisonment of not less than 10 years to life.

Hawaii small business wins contract for utility systems studies in Pacific

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $20 million indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity contract for architectural and engineering services last Sept. 25 to InSynergy Engineering Inc., of Honolulu, Hawaii for utility systems studies at various locations within the NAVFAC Pacific area of operations.

"The award of this contract represents a significant capability for NAVFAC Pacific in support of our Facilities Engineering Commands in the Northwest, Southwest, Hawaii, Marianas, and the Far East," said NAVFAC Pacific Public Works Business Line director Christopher Floro.

Work will be performed at various Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and other government facilities in Hawaii, Japan, Northwest and Southwest states, Guam, and Diego Garcia.

The term of the contract is not to exceed 60 months with an expected completion date of September 2025. ***(PR)***

Wanted: Health educator for Rota

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Are you a college student, retired health care worker, or interested in helping the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.? You're in luck! CHCC, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation, has an open position for a health educator/communications outreach coordinator on Rota.

Although the CDC Foundation website says they are seeking candidates for a full-time health educator/communications outreach coordinator to support CDC, applicants will still be able to apply for full-time work at 40 hours per week, or part-time work at 20 hours per week. According to the CHCC website, they only have one position that will be funded until March 31, 2021.

The job responsibilities include designing and implementing health promotions, health education, and training programs for public and private health agencies, and personnel to improve COVID-19 response. More details are shown on https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=014dfa20-d261-4f83-8d77-5edb4e15f0f8&ccId=9151448143730_726&type=MP&lang=en_US

Applicant qualifications include:

- A high school graduate or have a general educational development certificate.
- Be familiar with Rota
- Possession of an associate degree with minimum 2 years' work experience; or bachelor's degree with 1-year work experience
- 1-2 years of work experience (depending on education level) with strong communication and writing in professional duties.
- Certified Health Education Specialist certification preferred.
- Computer proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.
- Familiarity with social media platforms (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, and websites) as well as Adobe Pro, Lucid, and Canva)
- Knowledge of a foreign language(s) is a plus (local languages include Chamorro and Carolinian)

HOUSE

From Page 1

minority leader.

As of yesterday, House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) has yet to write Torres to declare the position vacant.

After Attao informs Torres about the vacancy, Torres has to appoint Propst's replacement, who is the losing candidate who received the most number of votes for Precinct 1 at the 2018 elections.

Former Department of Public Safety official Franklin Babauta is first in line. He has yet to announce his interest in serving Propst's remaining term of three months.

"Maybe from there, we will discuss or decide who [will be the new minority leader]," Villagomez said, adding that minority bloc members have yet to discuss that matter.

"We are not looking so much yet right now regarding the next minority leader," he added.

PORK

From Page 1

who is a Muslim, claims that he earlier told Saipan prison personnel that eating pork is against his religion, yet it still served him that food. Because of the incident, Islam said that he has disgraced his religion and the Islamic community.

In Islam's complaint filed with the District Court for the NMI, he named NMI Department of Corrections officials Georgia Cabrera and Maria Aldan and Don Hall and Alfred Celis of the U.S. Marshals Service-Saipan as defendants.

Islam is suing the defendants for alleged violation of his constitutional right to practice his religious beliefs. Also, he accuses them of providing inadequate medical care.

Islam is seeking an award for an unspecified amount of punitive damages.

Aside from serving him pork, Islam said in his suit that he also has poor eyesight and his request to see an eye doctor was ignored for a time.

When he was finally allowed to see a doctor at Marianas Eye Institute, Islam said the U.S. Marshals shipped him to Guam with two other federal inmates, even before he got his prescription glasses.

Islam said he does not understand why the U.S. Marshals transferred them to Guam in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic where they are "very vulnerable" to catch the coronavirus because "arrestees" from the streets of Guam were mixed with other inmates.

Islam has also requested U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to issue an order to return him back to Saipan where he is "safe."

Islam was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison back in 2018 for his involvement in an illegal labor scheme. Islam was found guilty of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas. Islam began serving his sentence at the CNMI Corrections in January 2020.

TAX

From Page 1

of income tax refunds. He said yesterday that this will be worth about $5 million.

"We are preparing the batch and, if all goes well, we will get it out by end of the week and taxpayers can expect something early next week," he said.

Atalig said Friday that everyone should have received their child tax credits if they're qualified for that.

"If they have not received their child tax credits, refunds, rebates, please contact Revenue and Tax. There might be a situation that there's an issue with their tax return, and corrective measures need to be done in order to be able to release those funds to them," he said.

With respect to income tax refunds, Atalig said they are preparing the batches and will release a partial of the first batch at the end of this week. He said they are just waiting for the transfer of some funds coming in and be allocating that as he promised a couple of weeks ago.

"As I mentioned in the past, as we receive reimbursements that we expect, we will release the additional batches as they come in," Atalig said.

COVID-19

From Page 1

statement, the two individuals were identified through travel screening and were confirmed positive through testing upon arrival. The two are now at the designated isolation area, the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, for monitoring.

CHCC has also initiated contact tracing for people who have come in contact with the two positive cases, including passengers on the same flight.

In total, six people are currently in isolation.

Of the 75 confirmed cases, 49 are travel related (29 are from the U.S. mainland, 10 are from a U.S. territory, and 10 are from a foreign country).

Of the 73 confirmed cases so far, 26 are from community screening; 10 are from the community-based testing at CHCC, and 16 are from contact tracing.

COVID-19 in Guam

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has signed an executive order that now allows sports organizations and eligible child care centers and other child care facilities to open with restrictions.

Sports organizations are now allowed to resume, effective yesterday, Oct. 5 at 8am. "Sports organization [sic] may request authorization to conduct non-contact training at their designated training facilities. Such requests shall be submitted to [Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services], which may authorize such activities on a case by case basis pursuant to DPHSS guidance, including any applicable occupancy limitation," said the order.

Also, effective yesterday, Oct. 5 at 6am, eligible child care centers and other child care facilities were able to open as long as they follow DPHSS guidance. "Each child care center and other child care facility must submit facility mitigation plans to DPHSS. …Facilities operating under this section shall additionally observe all mitigation measures imposed in applicable DPHSS guidance," said the EO.

To date, Guam has had a total of 2,550 reported cases of COVID-19, with 49 deaths, 635 cases in active isolation, and 1,866 not in active isolation. Of those cases, 2,277 are classified as civilians and 273 are military service members.

Additional SMA flights between Saipan and Rota

Effective Oct. 8, 2020, Star Marianas Air, Inc. will be operating additional flights between Saipan and Rota on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The departure times for the additional flights are 8:30am from Saipan to Rota and 9:30am from Rota to Saipan. Persons interested in making reservations may book online at: https://www.starmarianasair.com/book-online, or by calling SMA's reservations office at (670) 433-9996 or 433-9998 between the hours of 8am and 4pm from Monday through Sunday.

For SMA's most current flight schedules visit https://www.starmarianasair.com/passenger-flights. ***(PR)***

Hofschneider: Committee included provision that exceeds mandated 25% funding for PSS

Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Monday that the Senate Standing Committee of Fiscal Affairs that he chairs has successfully included a provision in the government's budget bill that is now a law that exceeds the constitutionally mandated 25% funding for the Public School System.

Under the budget bill that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Thursday into Public Law 21-25, the appropriation for the Public School System is $24,117,582, while the PSS Board of Education is earmarked $153,131.

Hofschneider

Hofschneider said his committee also included a provision that enable the government to fulfill the local match requirement for Medicaid, which will allow the CNMI to avail of $60 million in Medicaid federal funding.

Another provision also secures the return of most of furloughed public employees this fiscal year 2021, he said.

Hofschneider said the committee further determined that the budget needed another provision to ensure funding needs are met, so they gave Torres 100% reprogramming authority over the Executive Branch. This authority, he said, is usually reserved for responding to emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the senator said, the committee found it necessary to extend this authority into fiscal year 2021, with or without an emergency declaration.

"It is critical that the governor has the flexibility to move monies within the Executive Branch to address any unanticipated funding needs in a timely manner," he said, adding that the committee is confident that Torres will use this flexibility in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, Hofschneider thanked the Legislature for their efforts to pass the budget for fiscal year 2021. "I applaud [also] Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his team for burning the midnight oil to avert a government shutdown."

He said nearly every legislative resource at the Senate's disposal was poured into this budget. The committee sat down with numerous government entities in early August to discuss budgetary needs for the next fiscal year, he said, adding that the committee also consulted with Finance Secretary David Atalig to obtain a true picture of the government's finances. He said these lengthy conversations gave the committee valuable insight into how to adequately support the entire government in light of the economic hardship.

The senator said the committee convened daily in the final weeks of the fiscal year to develop a budget that sufficiently funded all government functions. "It was during this time that the committee discovered previously untapped resources and policy mechanisms that could maximize each government dollar," he said.

Hofschneider said the Legislature's bicameral conference committee also worked collaboratively to reach an agreement on the provisions of the budget bill.

Hofschneider led the Senate team, while Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) chaired the House's team in the conference committee that was tasked to resolve disagreements in the budget bill. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Lee Pan: Why should Executive Branch pay Tinian, Rota utilities?

The provision that most bothered Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) about the newly-enacted budget for fiscal year 2021 was the one that would require the Executive Branch to pay for the utilities of Rota and Tinian in fiscal year 2021.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres may have already line-item vetoed that provision but, speaking at the House of Representatives' emergency session last Sept. 30, 2020, Guerrero disclosed that the utilities issue was the biggest reason why he did not sign the "final product" or the report of the conference committee that had been working to resolve disagreements between the Senate and the House on the budget bill. Guerrero was a member of the House team in the committee.

Guerrero

He questioned why the Executive Branch is being made to pay for the utilities of Rota and Tinian in fiscal year 2021 when the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Saipan can get disconnected for failing to pay its power bills with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. While CHCC is struggling to pay its power, the Executive Branch will pay for the power of Rota and Tinian, Guerrero said. "Is that proper? Ask each of you that question. Because I don't feel comfortable," he said, adding that he wasn't comfortable putting his signature on something that he does not support. "So I'm hoping, praying that our good governor would line-item veto [that section] because I do not support this. That's why I did not sign the committee report."

House floor leader Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) said the bill would require the Executive Branch to cover about $586,000 in total for Rota and Tinian's utilities.

Another concern that Guerrero had was how the Senate came about with all the earmarks that were suspended, one of which is for the Marianas Visitors Authority. He said the MVA was projected to have an earmarkable $4.7 million. When he asked the Legislature's fiscal analyst, Dave Demapan, about this, he was told that this is actually a conservative projection, according to the Finance secretary.

"I don't understand. How do you project conservatively when there are no flights?" Guerrero asked.

When the House of Representatives rejected the Senate's version of the budget bill last Sunday, it referred the bill to a conference committee. The House and the Senate then appointed the members of the committee. The committee conferees met jointly beginning Tuesday and continued for two consecutive days.

At each meeting, the conferees deliberated and focused their effort on major differences on the Senate's and the House's versions of the bill. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Celebration of
109th National Day Republic of China (Taiwan)
and the Grand Opening Ceremony of
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam
October 10, 2020
Suite 727, International Trade Center (ITC)
Live Stream QR Code
http://10102020.tecoguam.com

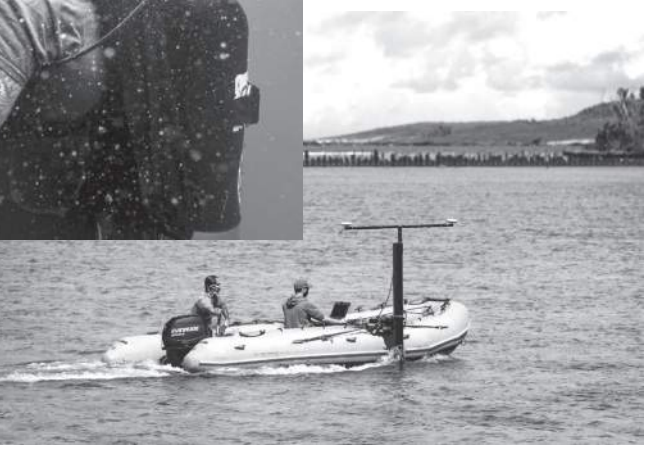
SEABEE DIVERS INSPECT TINIAN PIER

Seabees assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2 Construction Dive Detachment Alfa prepare for scuba operations within the Tinian harbor.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Builder 2nd Class John Williams, assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, inspects steel sheet pile during scuba operations within the Tinian harbor.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

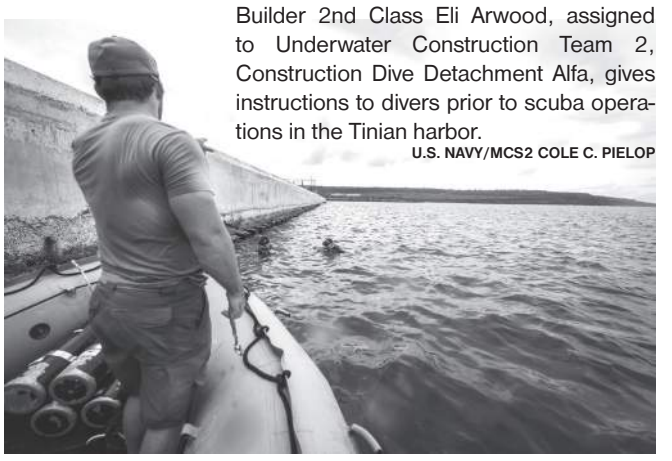


Builder 2nd Class Kyle Foresman, left, and Equipment Operator 2nd Class Jacob Mooney, both assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, conduct a bathymetric survey of the Tinian harbor.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Joshua Embry, left, and Builder 2nd Class John Williams, both assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, perform ultra-sonic thickness measurements on steel sheet pile during scuba operations within the Tinian harbor.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP



Builder 2nd Class Eli Arwood, assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, gives instructions to divers prior to scuba operations in the Tinian harbor.

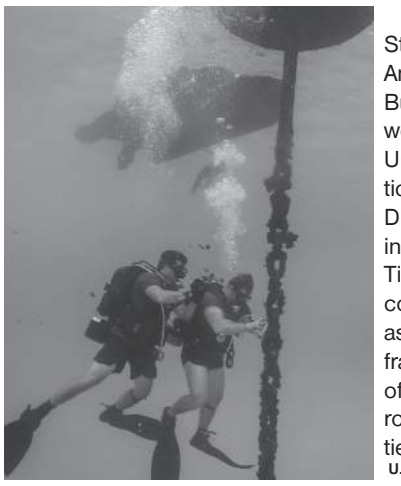
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Joshua Embry, assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, prepares sheet pile for measurement within the Tinian harbor.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Builder 2nd Class John Williams inspects Construction Mechanic 1st Class Joshua Embry, both assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, prior to scuba operations within the Tinian harbor.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP



Steel Worker 3rd Class Andrew Cuellar, left, and Builder 2nd Class Eli Arwood, both assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2 Construction Dive Detachment Alfa, inspect a buoy within the Tinian harbor. UCT 2 is conducting inspections as part of a maritime infrastructure assessment of the harbor and surrounding waterfront facilities on Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 I 5:00 PM
Pacific Islands Club I Charleys Cabaret
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/07/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2593 –** Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan proposes to renovate and occupy seven (7) preexisting 2-storey building structures for its staff housing. This use is classified as a "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 007 B 07 in the village of San Roque. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2584 –** Tuu Group LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 004 D 58 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2585 –** Tuu Group LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 004 D 58 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2587 –** Tuu Group LLC proposes to renovate and occupy the 2nd floor of a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 002 D 20 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2586 –** Tuu Group LLC proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor of a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 002 D 20 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2506 –** Napu, Inc., landowner of TR 21706 "A"-R2, along with landowners of TR 21706NEW, E.A. 878-2-1 and H-569-1 proposes to rezone these properties from Village Commercial to Mixed commercial in order to operate a proposed Cannabis Retail use. This proposal involves properties in the village of San Vicente.

C. Executive (Closed) Session

D. New Business
1. Election of Board Secretary
2. FY21 Budget
3. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

E. Miscellaneous
1. Next Meeting - November 6, 2020
2. Other Matters

F. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMDdXdFlQRTQ4UkhFRjViUT09
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Oct20

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-027

ISLEY WATER TANK FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from contractors for the replacement of the existing Isley Water Tank security fence in Isley Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-027 *Isley Water Tank Fence Replacement Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 27, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 9, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Yvonne Ogumoro, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer at email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

BOE approves repairs for 3 schools

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education of the Public School System recently gave the go signal to repair three schools that were severely damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. The repairs will be funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The BOE approved the designs for three school repair and construction projects last Sept. 29. FEMA has funded a total of $7.7 million for the projects at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, Da'ok Academy, and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

They are three out of the 30 projects that have been obligated by FEMA. Nine are still pending as design have yet to be forwarded, approved, and reviewed by the agency.

FEMA has obligated $1,356,640 for the reconstruction of FMS' Building C. The board also approved the design and location of the new Da'ok Academy campus. The academy will be located at the northeast corner of Koblerville Elementary School. The board also approved the design of the new WSR auditorium/cafeteria project, which FEMA is funding for $1,798,938.93. The proposed location of the new auditorium will be on an existing concrete foundation of the school, just south of its parking lot. FEMA funded $2,776,578 for the Building C in WSR. The proposed project site is located on the campus in Chalan Kanoa. The existing Building C was severely damaged due to Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. What remains of the existing Building C is only the concrete floor slab and foundation.

BOE vice chair Herman Atalig, who is also BOE chairman committee for Capital Improvement Projects, said that in order for them to move forward, the schools have to come up with a design that will be forwarded to FEMA for review and approval.

SCC's Oct. 7 meeting also a chance to meet Saipan Senate candidates

The theme of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's October virtual general membership meeting is "Coffee with the 2020 Saipan Senate Candidates."

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) and former Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero will join the membership in giving their thoughts on the state of the CNMI economy, workforce, and other critical issues. Additionally, SCC will also be announcing its slate of candidates for the upcoming 2021/2022 board of directors' election this November, information about their SCC Group Healthcare Program for small businesses, and other exciting news from the SCC office.

The virtual GMM will take place Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 10am to 11am. Participation is open to the first 100 people who enter the room. The GMM can also be viewed online live at www.facebook.com/spnchamber. To access the Zoom room, go to https://tinyurl.com/SCCOctGMM, Meeting ID: 954 2607 7131, Passcode: 477130.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. For more information, visit them online at www.saipanchamber.com or call 234-7150. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Micronesia Resort Inc.
dba Kensington Hotel Saipan

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use permit. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan is proposing to renovate & occupy 7 (Seven) preexisting two-storey building structures for its Institutional Residential facility. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 007 B 07 in San Roque village. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 20, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club Charleys Cabaret

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 19, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
NAPU Inc.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Rezone approval. NAPU Inc. is proposing to rezone Lot No. TR 21706"A"-R2, TR 21706NEW, E.A. 878-2-1, and H-569-1 from "Village Commercial" to "Mixed Commercial" to operate a Cannabis Retail establishment. These properties are located in San Vicente village. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 20, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club Charleys Cabaret

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 19, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Tuu Group LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use permit. Tuu Group LLC is proposing to renovate & occupy a pre-existing two-storey commercial building structure to operate a Cannabis Lounge establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 002 D 20 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 20, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club Charleys Cabaret

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A public hearing will be held on

Date: October 20, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club Charleys Cabaret

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 198

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What we saw

What are the right words to describe the first presidential debate of 2020?

Should we call what we saw a slugfest? A dogfight? Verbal mud wrestling by two old white guys?

Or maybe what we saw was mutually assured destruction.

However one chooses to describe it, almost everyone agrees it was ugly. And maybe mutually assured destruction is the best description because this was like a nasty brawl by a married couple on their way to divorce. There was an abundance of yelling, talking over and past each other, lots of bitterness, buckets of contempt.

And, just like one of those nasty couples' spats, no one learned anything and no one can remember what it was really about.

We just wish we hadn't seen it.

We feel diminished by it.

For we are diminished by it.

The presidential campaign, and the democratic process itself, is diminished by a debate like this.

President Donald Trump is a sort of WWE presidential candidate: He creates an over-the-top persona that plays to a particular audience, and he body-slams his opponent.

He is also, it seems, genuinely angry. He feels that he can't get a break from the press. Nothing he does brings him any credit. Not Middle Eastern peace initiatives, a booming economy (before COVID-19) or solid judicial nominees.

He's not wrong.

But the anger and the yelling will not win him many voters beyond his base. Both candidates talk almost exclusively to their base constituencies.

Joe Biden at least did not look as fragile and confused Tuesday night as he sometimes has in recent months. And he was able, at times, to convey decency and reasonableness. But it is almost impossible to tell what he really believes or what he wants to accomplish as president. His only really big and consistent message is: I am not Donald Trump, who is supposed to be self-evidently stupid and evil.

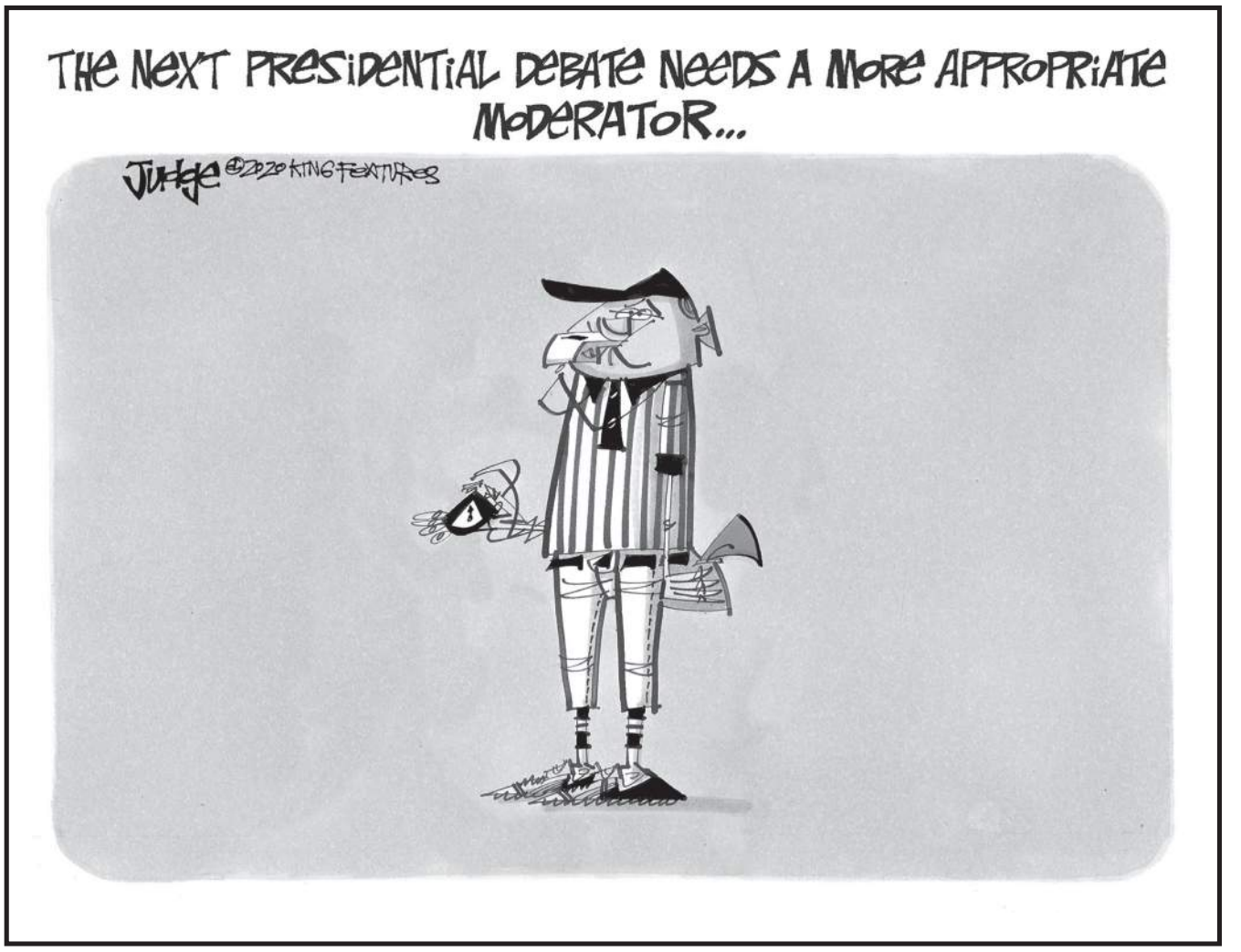
It's not much of a message. It certainly does not lift up.

Biden is hemmed in by his party and its undefinable slogans. "Social justice" hovers like a chimera over the party. "Systemic racism" is the monster ever hiding in the closet or under the bed. Why not use words that have power because their meaning is known—like due process or equal protection? Why not run on a promise or a program that is concrete—like an infrastructure jobs program; a new WPA, instead of Trump loathing?

Biden knows that most of his party has gone off the deep end. He knows that burning down police stations or defunding police forces is not liberalism and has said so. But quietly. He must be very careful with the people who constitute his base—the woke, wannabe woke and woke fellow travelers. Would he dare to stand up to these folk if he were in the White House? He is stuck.

And Trump is stuck, too—with himself. He is stuck

See WHAT on Next Page



A legacy of chaos: What they want us to forget

Editor's Note: This is being published in two parts due to its length. Continuation is in tomorrow's edition.

First of a two-part series

By **TINA SABLAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christina Marie Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 21st Legislature.

Our Commonwealth is at a crossroads: the economy is in shambles, public coffers have run dry, and trust in government has tanked. With the Nov. 3, 2020, midterm election fast approaching, we will soon have the chance to determine our next set of leaders in the Legislature. As we weigh decisions that will shape our future, it is helpful to look back in our history and learn from our past.

One political party and lately, one company, have dominated our government and economy. Here's a recap of the Republican legacy of chaos in the Northern Marianas in recent years:

1. All-expense-paid casino "fact-finding" trips to Hong Kong and Macau for key Republican lawmakers in 2013, including now-governor Ralph Torres. The trips were arranged and funded by Esteem Capital, a firm linked to Imperial Pacific International, which was ultimately awarded Saipan's exclusive casino license. The acceptance of those trips by CNMI officials likely violated the Government Ethics Act.

2. Swift passage of the Saipan Casino Act in 2014, within months of those dubious "fact-finding" trips. Casino gaming on Saipan was legalized without a single public hearing or legislative committee report, on first and final reading in both houses of the Legislature, and despite public protests, petitions, and two previous rejections by Saipan voters of casino gaming on the ballot. The new law, authored by then-speaker of the House and now-casino commissioner Rafael Demapan, made Saipan the only jurisdiction in the nation, and quite possibly the world, to legalize casino gaming without imposing a gaming tax.

3. The removal of the casino commission's authority to require a completion bond that would have ensured IPI's timely and satisfactory construction of its casino resort project. This unconscionable deal only benefited IPI to the detriment of the Commonwealth's interests, and was crafted through a substitute bill introduced on the House floor by then-representative Angel Demapan. The bill sailed through the Republican-led Legislature and was approved by Gov. Torres in 2015, becoming Public Law 19-24. Five years later, despite several deadline extensions, the casino resort project is still not finished.

4. Double-digit salary increases for the CNMI's top elected officials. With the enactment of Public Law 19-83 in January 2017, hefty salary hikes were awarded to the governor (from $70,000 to $120,000, a 71% increase), the lieutenant governor (from $60,000 to $100,000, a 67% increase), and mayors (from $43,200 to $75,000, a 74% increase). The same law also gave lawmakers an 80% raise, but the Supreme Court struck that down as unconstitutional. Meanwhile, civil servants only got a 5% bump; since then their pay increase has been all but wiped out by austerity cuts and furloughs.

5. Broken promises to retirees, that a Saipan casino would safeguard their pensions. One of these promises was to dedicate the $15 million annual casino license fee to paying the 25% portion of retiree pensions that was not covered by the Settlement Fund agreement with the government. But in 2017, through Public Law 20-10, the government diverted the $15 million casino license fee away from the Settlement Fund. The legislation, authored by then-chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Rep. Angel Demapan, claimed that the casino gross revenue taxes were sufficient to cover these pension payments. In fact, IPI was already falling behind on taxes in 2017.

6. More than $35 million owed by IPI to the people of the Commonwealth in Community Benefit Fund distributions since 2018. An additional $20 million is due in October 2020. The Community Benefit Fund is a requirement in IPI's casino license agreement, and the money could have been used for health care, education, retirement benefits, and infrastructure. Pursuant to the license agreement, Gov. Torres holds enforcement authority over the Community Benefit Fund, but the records show that he has done very little since 2018 to ensure IPI's compliance. IPI, too, has done very little to comply.

7. Federal criminal charges filed against senior IPI executives and other co-conspirators. The superseding indictment filed in August 2019 and unsealed in August 2020 lists 71 counts involving RICO conspiracy, harboring of illegal aliens, unlawful employment of aliens, and international money laundering. Meanwhile, an ongoing civil lawsuit alleges IPI's involvement in a human trafficking and forced labor scheme, and accuses the company of denying medical care and compensation to injured construction workers.

To be continued tomorrow.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

8 things that shouldn't be in your will

FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

It's not always enough to do the right thing; it's also important to do it the right way. Otherwise unforeseen problems will inevitably arise.

Consider your will, a document that most people create and then forget about. That's largely fine if the will was well done and your situation doesn't change afterwards. But if the will contains problems, then much like unexploded World War II ordinance littering the islands, those problems will remain a hidden danger lurking for years, even decades.

To reduce the risk that your will contains unforeseen problems that won't surface until after you pass away, watch out for the following eight common mistakes.

First, your will should not be the primary place for your funeral arrangements. Why? Because the funeral usually happens long before your will is found or reviewed. So, if you wanted to be buried but your family decided to cremate you, tough luck. By the time your family knows what you wanted, it's too late.

Similarly, you also shouldn't rely on your will to tell people you want your organs donated (assuming you want them donated). The reason is the same as for funeral arrangements—by the time your will is being reviewed, the relevant decisions will already have been made.

And the same for instructions about whether you want to be kept on life support at the end of your life: These decisions need to be made weeks or months before anyone might look at your will. Instead of putting those decisions in a will, write them in a living will (which sounds like a will but isn't).

Now let's talk about the types of property that you should not try to transfer through a will.

Let's begin with your 401(k) or IRA, which for many people are their biggest buckets of money. These funds pass by operation of law to whoever you wrote down on the beneficiary-designation form that you filled out when you set up the fund years ago. It doesn't matter what your will says; it has no power over this money unless you appointed your estate as the beneficiary, which is unlikely. So, the stakes are high if the person you want to receive that money is different than who you designated when you signed up for the account.

A similar issue applies to annuities or life-insurance proceeds. That money is likewise governed by beneficiary forms that you created when you bought the annuity or life insurance. So, if you want to change the beneficiary, do that by signing a new beneficiary form. Don't try to change it via your will.

If you have a trust, another potential problem is attempting to transfer some of the trust's assets through your will. The sentiment is fine but the approach is flawed. That's because once you set up a trust and then give it assets, those assets belong to the trust. At that point, the trust assets will transfer according to the trust agreement, not your will.

If you own an LLC, the same trap exists. Once you transfer assets to an LLC, the LLC owns them, not you. So, you can't directly transfer assets from the LLC to your heirs via a will. Instead, you'll have to take some extra steps. For example, if you own 100% of the LLC and want to leave all of the LLC's assets to one person, then leave all of your ownership stake in the company to your heir. Thus, when you die, your heir will receive the company and, by extension, all of the assets you wanted them to have. Or maybe you own all of the LLC but only want to give some of the assets to an heir. For that situation, you may want to create a second LLC and then transfer the assets you want to give to your heir to the new LLC. At that point, it's easy for your will to give all of the new LLC's ownership to your heir, meaning that they will also receive all of that LLC's assets.

That brings us to our final mistake: Including explanations in your will about why you sliced your assets up in the manner that you ultimately did. In part, that's because a will should be short, clear, and to the point to avoid creating opportunities for dispute. And in part, it's because a will is a public record that will be submitted to a court. That's probably not the best venue for airing potentially dirty laundry.

With that said, if you think your will is going to be controversial for your family, it's often great to handle the situation proactively—either by sitting everyone down and explaining your decisions or by creating a standalone document that puts your thoughts in writing. But, again, your will is not the spot for that conversation.

To avoid these eight mistakes and a myriad of others, please speak with a qualified estate-planning attorney. After all, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

In Venus' clouds there's phosphine. Phosphine stinks. But its discovery lifts my heart

By CHRISTOPHER COKINOS
Los Angeles Times

Christopher Cokinos is co-editor of the anthology Beyond Earth's Edge: The Poetry of Spaceflight.

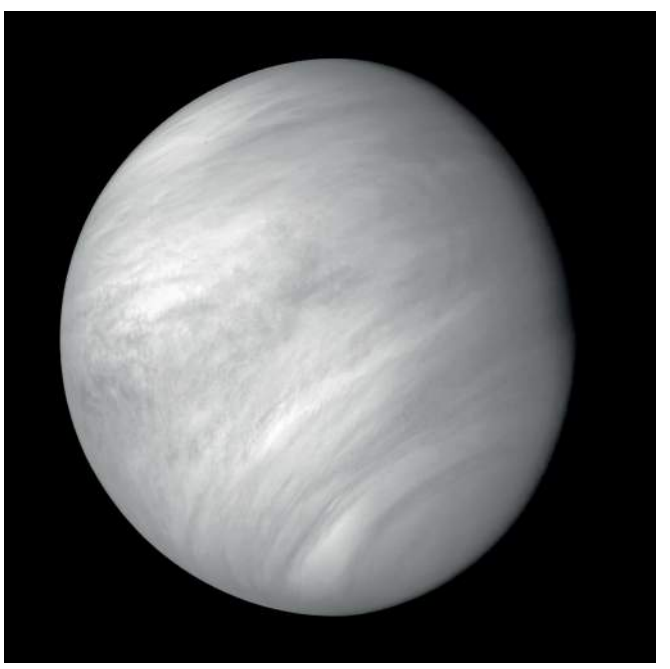
Hazy and noxious clouds obscure the hot land below. Here in Utah, as I write, distant wildfires have turned the sky a monochromatic opal. In a time of unrest, plague and rising fear of science, joy is hard to find. Consolation, if it comes, is the sweet call of a bird, a favorite, a northern flicker above maple-red woods.

And when it's clear, Venus, in the morning sky like a gem.

I've been thinking about the hazy, noxious clouds on Venus for the past few days because in its hellish sky there's something called phosphine. Phosphine stinks. But its discovery lifted my heart.

Life is resilient. Recently, scientists revived 100-million-year-old microbes from deep ocean sediments. Another study suggests that a strange critter called Lystrosaurus—a survivor of the greatest mass extinction in Earth history, the Permian—was the first to adapt to cold by hibernating. Extinctions pound the biosphere—like, right now—and life comes back, filling empty spaces like birdsong in quiet air.

Astronomers look hungrily to Mars for evidence of life from its more clement past, and oceans—water—lurk under the ice of Jovian and Saturnian moons. Even Pluto—Pluto!—shows evidence of a subsurface ocean. Venus, not so much. Its Dantean surface broils at 900 degrees Fahrenheit. Its atmospheric pressure is more than 90 times that of Earth. Wreathed in corrosive sulfuric acid, Venus is not the swampy jungle sci-fi writers once imagined.



NASA/JPL-CALTECH/TNS

A false color composite of the planet Venus created by combining images taken using orange and ultraviolet spectral filters on the Mariner 10's imaging camera.

But the lofty regions above the Venusian surface are another story. Planetary scientists, including Carl Sagan, have long suggested that microbial life might persist there, in the less-pressurized, cooler atmosphere (where temperatures can range from 30 to 200 degrees). And indeed, in September an international research team announced that it had found the signature of phosphine in the clouds of Venus. So far as we know, phosphine can only be created artificially or by life itself. Not all microbes need oxygen, and those on Earth that don't—well, they produce phosphine.

In media reports, one of the scientists, MIT's Clara Sousa-Silva cautioned, "On Earth, some microbes can cope with up to about 5% of acid in their environment, but the clouds of Venus are almost entirely made of acid."

Her fellow researcher, Janusz Petkowski, was a little more sanguine: "We really went through all possible pathways that could produce phosphine on a rocky planet. If this is not life, then our understanding of rocky planets is severely lacking."

The team's study is careful and compelling—and just a start. More observations, and missions to Venus, are needed to understand the phosphine detection. If Venusian phosphine doesn't signify life, then scientists will unravel new processes that produce the gas.

And if the Venusian phosphine is what we hope it is—well, that's a spark of joy in a hellish sky.

It means that life arose more than once in our backwater solar system. It means that life is common, and its tenacity is cosmic. For me, that puts our struggles in a grand context. Not by way of diminishing the hard work of problem-solving that faces us. Rather, the possibility that swaths of airborne microbes are going about their business in the skies above Venus reminds me that life finds a way. We can find our way too.

And when our time is up—later rather than sooner, if we get our act together—life, microscopic or intelligent, will have claimed other skies on other worlds.

WHAT

From Page 8

with his chaotic and ad hoc style of governing, his bottomless anger and his profound aloneness, both as a leader and as a man. He can't figure out how to build, even on his own record, or how to be president of the whole nation.

What we saw Tuesday night was ugly, not just because it was childish and rude behavior by two grown men who aspire to lead us, but because it betrayed their mutual inability to understand what we the people need from them at this moment in our history.

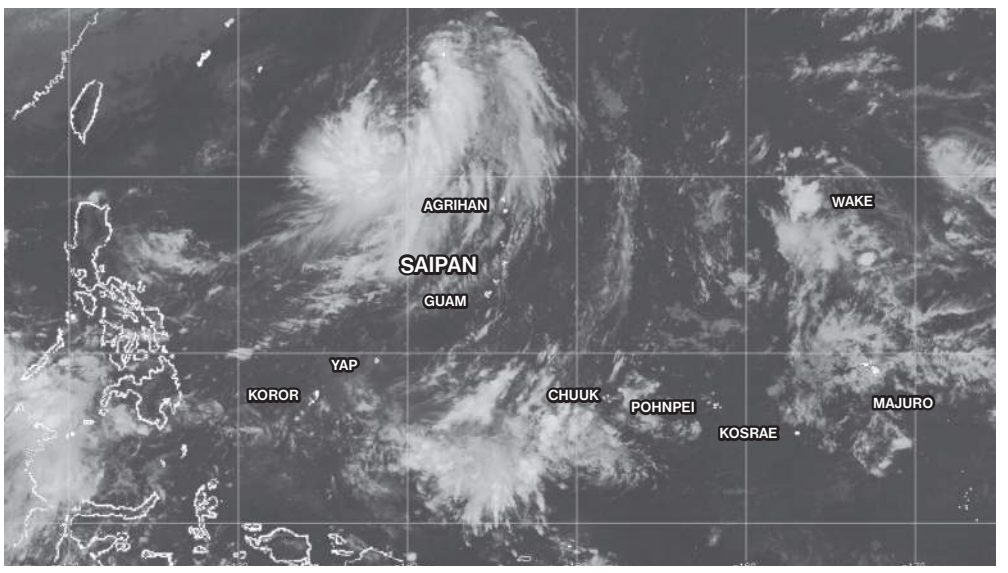
(c) 2020 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 76°	87° 76°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:45 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are partly cloudy and radar shows only a few showers moving through on gentle east trade winds. Newly-formed Tropical Depression 16W is centered well northwest of the Marianas near 23N139E. Buoys reveal combined seas of 3 feet, composed mainly of background trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:19 AM	9:00 PM
Wednesday	-	10:10 AM	9:44 PM
Thursday	-	11:02 AM	10:32 PM
Friday	-	11:55 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	12:48 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Beijing	Showers	70° / 55°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Mostly Sunny	59° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 81°
New York	Showers	76° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	73° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	85° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	74° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 59°
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 63°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 64°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.16
10:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
4:23 PM	LOW TIDE	0.99
9:29 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.63

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Jack in the Box announces new Tamuning location

GUAM— Jack in the Box has announced its plans to open a second restaurant in Guam by the end of 2021. Jack unveiled plans to build a new free-standing restaurant in the heart of Tamuning at the corner of Marine Corps Drive and Jalaguac Way. Jack in the Box opened its first restaurant in Guam in 2014 in Tamuning.

Jack in the Box executives shared the rendering of the company's new Jalaguac location, which features one of the company's largest restaurant models to accommodate comfortable indoor dining, a drive-through, and ample parking.

"This is a very exciting next step for our company to build a free-standing restaurant in Guam," said Donna Yano, vice president of Jack in the Box Hawaii. "Since we've opened in Guam, we knew that we wanted to grow our presence in this wonderful community. We are pleased to announce our further investment in Guam, which we know can help support the local economy and provide more career opportunities for residents in the long term."

Soon, the company will be preparing the property for permitting and removal of the buildings currently on the site. The company has been searching for the ideal location that would serve residents who live in the central and southern villages more effectively.

"We chose this specific area in Tamuning for a few reasons," said Yano. "In addition to the great support we received from the owners of the property, the lot provides excellent Marine Corps Drive frontage and visibility. We will build entrances and exits along Marine Corps Drive and Jalaguac Way that will provide safe ways to access the restaurant by foot or by car via the traffic light. We also look forward to providing quick and convenient meals in our dining room or through our drive-up service for those who work in the vicinity."

» **Free-standing restaurant slated to be built by the fourth quarter of 2021**

Ron Pangilinan, property manager for M.V.P. Enterprises, the landowners of the site, said, "We are excited for Jack in the Box to open on our Tamuning Marine Corps Drive property, which will invigorate the area. We look forward to the new development and a great long-lasting relationship."

Mayor Louise C. Rivera, from the municipality of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon, expressed how the addition of the food chain to the area will provide another great dining option to the many people who live and work in one Guam's busiest commercial and industrial areas.

"The village of Tamuning warmly welcomes Jack in the Box. The new restaurant is exciting for the island because it will provide more jobs for our residents and improve the beautification in the area," said Rivera. "This location will be convenient for those who drive through Tamuning on their way to and from work each day. The new Jack will also provide our visitors with another great dining option."

Yano added, "With construction starting soon, the community will soon be able to enjoy their favorite Jack meals in our new, bright, and welcoming restaurant setting."

Jack in the Box Hawaii is locally owned and operated. There are currently 30 restaurants on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island. In 2014, Jack in the Box opened its restaurant in Tamuning, Guam. Jack in the Box Hawaii and Guam proudly serves local classics like Hawaiian Paradise Kona Coffee, Spam Croissant, Portuguese Sausage Platter, and the Spam Platter. For more information on Jack in the Box Hawaii, visit www.gotjack.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jack in the Box announces the site of the company's newest location in Tamuning along Marine Corps Drive at the corner of Jalaguac Way, where the company plans to build one of its largest free-standing restaurants with dine-in and drive-through options.

At least a quarter of Disney layoffs coming from Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—At least a quarter of the 28,000 layoffs planned for Disney's parks division will come from Florida, according to a letter the company filed with state and local officials last week.

The letter said that at least 6,390 nonunion Disney employees in Florida will be laid off starting in early December. The number of Florida layoffs, though, could grow as the company negotiates terms with a coalition of unions that represents 43,000 employees at Walt Disney World.

"Due to the continuing business impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the very difficult decision to reduce our workforce," Jim Bowden, a Disney vice president of employee relations said in the letter.

Disney officials said last week that two-thirds of the planned layoffs involve part-time workers and they ranged from salaried employees to hourly workers.

Disney's parks closed last spring as the pandemic started spreading in the U.S. The Florida parks reopened this summer, but the California parks have yet to reopen as the company awaits guidance from the state of California.

In a letter to employees last week, Josh D'Amaro, chairman of Disney Parks, Experience and Product, said California's "unwillingness to lift restrictions that would allow Disneyland to reopen" exacerbated the situation for the company.

Long-term jobless caught in a squeeze that imperils recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—This spring, Magdalena Valiente was expecting her best year as a Florida-based concert promoter. Now, she wonders if the career she built over three decades is over.

Back in March, Valiente had been planning five tours for Latin Grammy winners Fonseca and Andrés Cepeda and more than 20 for Miami Latin pop band Bacilos. Earning well into six figures during good years, Valiente was hoping to help her youngest son, a high school junior, pay his way through college.

But with live events canceled, things have turned bleak. She is relying on unemployment benefits and Medicaid and has applied for food stamps. She has lost hope that the crisis will end soon.

"I worked up from the very bottom when I started in this business in my twenties," said Valiente, a single mother in Fort Lauderdale. "There weren't many other women, and it was hard. It's not easy to let it go."

Millions of Americans in the industries hit hardest by the viral pandemic face a similar plight. Their unemployment has stretched from weeks into months, and it's become painfully unclear when, if ever, their jobs will come back. In the entertainment field where Valiente worked and in other sectors that absorbed heavy job losses — from restaurants and hotels to energy, higher education and advertising — employment remains far below pre-pandemic levels.

These trends have raised the specter of a period of widespread long-term unemployment that could turn the viral recession into a more painful, extended downturn. People who have been jobless for six months or longer — one definition of long-term unemployment — typically suffer an erosion of skills and professional networks that makes it harder to find a new job. Many will need training or education to find work with a new company or in a new occupation, which can delay their re-entry into the job market.

On Friday, the government reported that employers added 661,000 jobs in September, normally a healthy gain. Yet it marked the third straight monthly slowdown in hiring. The nation has regained barely half the 22 million jobs that were lost to the pandemic and the widespread business shutdowns it caused in March and April.

In a worrisome trend, a rising proportion of job losses appear to be permanently gone. When the virus erupted in March and paralyzed the economy, nearly 90% of layoffs were considered temporary, and a quick rebound seemed possible. No longer. In September, the number of Americans classified as permanently laid off rose 12% to 3.8 million. And the number of long-term unemployed rose by 781,000 — the largest increase on record — to 2.4 million.

"We have a real chance of there being massive long-term unemployment," said Till Von Wachter, an economics professor at UCLA.

The nation now has 7% fewer jobs than in February. Yet the damage is far deeper in some sectors. The performing arts and spectator sports category, which includes Valiente's industry, has lost 47% of its jobs. It hasn't added any net jobs since the coronavirus struck.

Hotels are down 35%, restaurants and bars 19%, transportation 18%. Advertising, one of the first expenses that companies cut in a downturn, is down 9.

Higher education has lost 9% of its jobs. Many classes have been delayed or moved online, reducing the need for janitors, cafeteria workers and other administrators. Normally during recessions, the education sector adds jobs to accommodate people returning to school to seek marketable skills or education. Not this time.

Ashley Broshious took years to develop skills that now seem much less in demand. A manager and sommelier at a Charleston restaurant, Broshious is one of just six certified advanced sommeliers in South Carolina. Still, she was laid off in March. And when the restaurant owner reopened one of his two establishments, she wasn't rehired.

Now, Broshious receives about $326 a week in unemployment benefits. That's not nearly enough to pay the $2,400 monthly rent on her home, as well as student loans, car insurance and credit card debt from a trip to Hawaii she took while still working.

"When you spend your entire life building this career," Broshious said, "it's hard to start over."

Some economists note hopefully that this recovery has progressed faster than many analysts expected and may keep doing so. Matthew Notowidigdo, an economist at the University of Chicago's Booth School, and three colleagues predicted in a research paper that the rapid recall of temporary workers will lower unemployment to 4.6% a year from now. That would suggest a much faster recovery than the previous recession.

Three-quarters of the temporarily laid off aren't bothering to look for work, Notowidigdo said, based on an analysis of government data, apparently because they're confident of being recalled. And while the number of job openings has declined by about 17% compared with a year earlier, according to Glassdoor, it remains far higher than during the Great Recession.

In July, the most recent month for which government data is available, there were 2.5 unemployed workers, on average, for each job opening. That's much better than the six unemployed per job opening during the depths of the Great Recession.

"There are still a lot of people finding jobs fairly rapidly," Notowidigdo said.

Still, more than one-third of workers who have been laid off or furloughed now regard their job loss as permanent, according to a survey by Morning Consult. That's up from just 15% in April.

Some economists, like Sophia Koropeckyj of Moody's Analytics, see rising cause for concern. Koropeckyj estimates that 5 million people will struggle to find work even after the virus has been controlled. Jobs likely won't return to pre-pandemic levels until late in 2023, she said in a research note.

Even among some people who have managed to land new jobs, the pandemic recession has upended their financial lives.

Nation

Trump takes a brief car ride, ignoring own COVID infection

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Infected and contagious, President Donald Trump briefly ventured out in a motorcade on Sunday to salute cheering supporters, a move that disregarded precautions meant to contain the deadly virus that has forced his hospitalization and killed more than 209,000 Americans.

Hours earlier, Trump's medical team reported that his blood oxygen level dropped suddenly twice in recent days and that they gave him a steroid typically only recommended for the very sick. Still, the doctors said Trump's health is improving and that he could be discharged as early as Monday.

With one month until Election Day, Trump was eager to project strength despite his illness. The still-infectious president surprised supporters who had gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, driving by in a black SUV with the windows rolled up. Secret Service agents inside the vehicle could be seen in masks and other protective gear.

The move capped a weekend of contradictions that fueled confusion about Trump's health, which has imperiled the leadership of the U.S. government and upended the final stages of the presidential campaign. While Trump's physician offered a rosy prognosis on his condition, his briefings lacked basic information, including the findings of lung scans, or were quickly muddled by more serious assessments of the president's health by other officials.

In a short video released by the White House on Sunday, Trump insisted he understood the gravity of the moment. But his actions moments later, by leaving the hospital and sitting inside the SUV with others, suggested otherwise.

"This is insanity," Dr. James P. Phillips, an attending physician at Walter Reed who is a critic of Trump and his handling of the pandemic. "Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary presidential 'drive-by' just now has to be quarantined for 14 days. They might get sick. They may die."

"For political theater," the doctor added. "Commanded by Trump to put their lives at risk for theater."

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump's trip outside the hospital "was cleared by the medical team as safe to do." He added that precautions were taken, including using personal protective equipment, to protect Trump as well as White House officials and Secret Service agents.

Joe Biden's campaign, meanwhile, said the Democratic presidential nominee again tested negative for coronavirus Sunday. The results come five days after Biden spent more than 90 minutes on the debate stage with Trump. Biden, who has taken a far more cautious approach to in-person events, had two negative tests on Friday.

For his part, Trump still faces questions about his health.

His doctors sidestepped questions on Sunday about exactly when Trump's blood oxygen dropped — an episode they neglected to mention in multiple statements the day before — or whether lung scans showed any damage.

It was the second straight day of obfuscation from a White House already suffering from a credibility crisis. And it raised more doubts about whether the doctors treating the president were sharing accurate, timely information with the American public about the severity of his condition.

Pressed about conflicting information he and the White House released on Saturday, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley acknowledged that he had tried to present a sunnier description of the president's condition.

"I was trying to reflect the upbeat attitude that the team, the president, that his course of illness has had. Didn't want to give any information that might steer the course of illness in another direction," Conley said. "And in doing so, you know, it came off that we were trying to hide something, which wasn't necessarily true. The fact of the matter is that he's doing really well."

Medical experts said Conley's revelations were hard to square with his positive assessment and talk of a discharge.

"There's a little bit of a disconnect," said Dr. Steven Shapiro, chief medical and scientific officer at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

According to CDC guidelines, "In general, transport and movement of a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection outside of their room should be limited to medically essential purposes."

AP

In this image from video, President Donald Trump waves as he drives past supporters gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020.

Other world leaders who have been infected

Prime Minister Boris Johnson

BORIS JOHNSON
• The British prime minister was the first major world leader confirmed to have COVID-19. He announced it on March 27

JAIR BOLSONARO
• The Brazilian president announced his illness in July

JUAN ORLANDO HERNANDEZ
• The Honduras president announced in June that he had tested positive.

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO
• The president of Belarus contracted it in July but was asymptomatic

PRINCE CHARLES
• Heir to the British throne, tested positive in March and showed mild symptoms.

PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO
• The palace of Monaco said the ruler tested positive in March

ALEJANDRO GIAMMATTEI
• The Guatemalan president said he tested positive for the virus in September with mild symptoms

JEANINE ANEZ
• The virus drove the Bolivian interim president into isolation in July, but she said she was feeling well

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Virus spreads on panel handling Supreme Court nomination

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have tested positive for the coronavirus, raising questions about the timing of Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett and whether additional senators may have been exposed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared the confirmation process was going "full steam ahead."

North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis and Utah Sen. Mike Lee both said Friday that they had tested positive for the virus. Both had attended a ceremony for Barrett at the White House on Sept. 25 with President Donald Trump, who announced Friday that he had tested positive and was later hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Lee, who did not wear a mask at the White House event, said he had "symptoms consistent with longtime allergies." Tillis, who did wear a mask during the public portion of the event, said he had "mild symptoms." Both said they would quarantine for 10 days — ending just before Barrett's confirmation hearings begin on Oct. 12.

The positive tests come as Senate Republicans are pushing to quickly confirm Barrett in the few weeks they have before the Nov. 3 election. There is little cushion in the schedule set out by Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham and McConnell, who want to put a third Trump nominee on the court immediately in case they lose any of their power in the election.

Democrats, many of whom have been critical of Barrett, seized on the virus announcements to call for a delay in the hearings.

"We now have two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who have tested positive for COVID, and there may be more," tweeted Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer. "I wish my colleagues well. It is irresponsible and dangerous to move forward with a hearing, and there is absolutely no good reason to do so."

Several other members of the Judiciary panel attended the White House ceremony, including Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn and Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo. Blackburn said she tested negative after the event. Crapo said he "recently" had a negative test and a spokeswoman said he would be getting another one as soon as it could be arranged. A spokeswoman for Hawley said he was being tested Saturday, and the senator tweeted later that his coronavirus test came back negative.

Facing a conservative turn, Supreme Court opens new term

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court opens a new term with Republicans on the cusp of realizing a dream 50 years in the making, a solid conservative majority that might roll back abortion rights, expand gun rights and shrink the power of government.

Eight justices are getting back to work Monday at a most unusual, politically fraught moment in American history. They're still mourning the death of their colleague Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the leader of the court's liberal wing. They're working in the midst of a pandemic that has forced the court to drastically change the way it conducts business. And the presidential election is less than a month away.

President Donald Trump's nominee for Ginsburg's seat, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, could be on the bench in time for one of the term's biggest cases, post-Election Day arguments in the latest Republican bid to strike down the Affordable Care Act, which provides more than 20 million people with health insurance.

Barrett's confirmation would cement a 6-3 conservative majority and diminish Chief Justice John Roberts' ability to moderate the court's decisions. That's because conservatives would have five votes even in cases where Roberts might side with the remaining three liberal justices.

"I would guess that on the whole we're going to see a considerable and perhaps quite rapid shift to the right," said Orin Kerr, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

The term is so far short on high-profile cases, but that could change quickly because of the prospect of court involvement in lawsuits related to the election. Trump has said he wants Barrett in place soon so that she could be among nine justices, including his other appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, who weigh in on any voting cases. Four years ago, Republicans were content to leave a Supreme Court seat open through the election, even if it meant having an eight-justice court decide any election challenges.

High-court involvement in the election could make this "the most tumultuous and divisive term since the Supreme Court decided Bush v. Gore 20 years ago and effectively determined who would become president of the United States," said Irv Gornstein, a Georgetown University law professor.

Already this year, the justices have weighed in on election issues in Wisconsin, Alabama, Rhode Island, Florida and Texas. Among the issues: ballot witness requirements and allowing all voters to vote by mail. Pending are pleas from Republicans to reverse decisions extending the deadline for receiving and counting mail-in ballots in the battleground state of Pennsylvania and suspending a ballot witness requirement in South Carolina, where polls find a tight race between Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison.

Asia

India has another 75,800 cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has registered 75,829 confirmed coronaviruses cases in the past 24 hours, a day after crossing 100,000 total fatalities.

The Health Ministry raised India's confirmed total to more than 6.5 million on Sunday and said at least 101,782 people have died of COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

India is still registering the highest number of daily cases globally but with the recovery rate at more than 83%, the number of those recovered has surpassed 5.5 million, the Health Ministry said.

India also has the low fatality rate of 1.56%, which is nearly half the global one.

The Health Ministry credited the increased testing in the country for a sustained low death rate. India has conducted nearly 79 million tests so far, according to official data.

India is preparing to reopen cinemas and entertainment parks with limited capacity beginning Oct. 15, in an effort to revive the economy. Health experts warn the move has the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming religious festival and winter season.

India is also making plans for an eventual vaccine, with officials saying they hope to immunize at least 250 million of the country's 1.4 billion people by July 2021.

Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said Sunday that the government will ensure "equitable access" to a vaccine and is in the process of identifying high-risk groups that will be the first in line to receive it.

AP

An Indian woman wearing a face mask as a precaution against the coronavirus speaks during a protest condemning the alleged gang rape and killing of a Dalit woman, in Bengaluru, India, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020.

Vardhan said the topmost priority will be given to frontline health care workers.

India is testing three potential vaccines, including one being developed jointly by the University of Oxford and pharma giant AstraZeneca.

That vaccine will be mass produced by India's Serum Institute, the world's biggest vaccine producer. The Serum Institute has said that it will produce 200 million doses of coronavirus vaccines for developing countries, including India.

In other developments from the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Indonesia has surpassed 300,000 confirmed infections since the pandemic began. The Health Ministry on Sunday reported 3,992 new cases, taking the country's total to 303,498. The ministry said 11,151 people have died of the disease, while 228,453 patients have recovered.

■ South Korea has reported 64 new cases of the coronavirus, the fourth straight day its increase came below 100, possibly reflecting the fewer number of tests conducted during one of the biggest holidays of the year. The figures released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Sunday brought the national caseload to 24,091, including 421 deaths. Thirty-eight of the new cases were reported in the Seoul metropolitan area, which has been at the center of a viral resurgence since August. Seventeen of the new cases were linked to international arrivals, mostly from other Asian countries such as the Philippines, India, and Bangladesh. There are concerns that infections could rise in coming weeks because of increased travel during the five-day Chuseok harvest holiday that continues through Sunday.

North Korea's Kim wishes Trump recovery from coronavirus

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Saturday sent a message of sympathy to President Donald Trump and his wife Melania, wishing they would recover from the COVID-19 illness, state media reported.

"He sincerely hoped that they would recover as soon as possible. He hoped they will surely overcome it," the Korean Central News Agency reported. "He sent warm greetings to them."

Trump said Friday he and his wife had tested positive for the coronavirus, and leaders across the world have sent messages of goodwill to the couple.

Kim and Trump once exchanged threats of destruction and crude insults after North Korea in 2017 carried out a series of high-profile weapons tests aimed at acquiring ability to launch nuclear strikes on the U.S. mainland. Trump had said he would rain "fire and fury" on North Korea and derided Kim as "little rocket man" on a suicide mission, while Kim responded he would "tame the mentally deranged U.S. dotard with fire."

But they stopped such rhetoric and instead developed a personal relationship after Kim abruptly reached out to Trump in 2018 for talks on the fate of his advancing nuclear arsenal.

They met three times in 2018-2019, starting with a summit in Singapore that made Trump the first sitting U.S. president to meet a North Korea leader since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. But their meetings made little headway since their second summit in Vietnam in early 2019 ended without any deal following disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea.

Before their nuclear talks entered a stalemate, Trump said that he and Kim "fell in love." According to journalist Bob Woodward's recently published book "Rage," Kim, in a letter to Trump, called the U.S. president "your excellency" and said he believed the "deep and special friendship between us will work as a magical force."

Some observers said Trump's coronavirus diagnosis would quell speculation that the two leaders could have planned an "October surprise" in arranging their fourth meeting ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

Despite the deadlocked talks, Kim hasn't lifted his self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests in an apparent effort to keep chances for diplomacy alive. North Korea's economy is believed to have worsened due to the sanctions and the pandemic that forced it to close its border with China, its biggest trading partner, in January.

North Korea has said there hasn't been a single virus outbreak on its soil, a claim widely disputed by foreign experts

World

Push for Arab-Israel ties divides Sudanese leaders

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's fragile interim government is sharply divided over normalizing relations with Israel, as it finds itself under intense pressure from the Trump administration to become the third Arab country to do so in short order—after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Washington's push for Sudan-Israel ties is part of a campaign to score foreign policy achievements ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

Sudan seemed like a natural target for the pressure campaign because of U.S. leverage—Khartoum's desperate efforts to be removed from a U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism. Sudan can only get the international loans and aid that are essential for reviving its battered economy once that stain is removed.

While Sudan's transitional government has been negotiating the terms of removing the country from the list for more than a year, U.S. officials introduced the linkage to normalization with Israel more recently.

Top Sudanese military leaders, who govern jointly with civilian technocrats in a Sovereign Council, have become increasingly vocal in their support for normalization with Israel as part of a quick deal with Washington ahead of the U.S. election.

"Now, whether we like it or not, the removal (of Sudan from the terror list) is tied to (normalization) with Israel," the deputy head of the council, Gen. Mohammed Dagalo, told a local television station on Friday.

"We need Israel ... Israel is a developed country and the whole world is working with it," he said. "We will have benefits from such relations ... We hope all look at Sudan's interests."

Such comments would have been unthinkable until recently in a country where public hostility toward Israel remains strong.

The top civilian official in the coalition, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, has argued that the transitional government does not have the mandate to decide on foreign policy issues of this magnitude.

When U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Sudan last month, Hamdok urged him to move forward with removing Sudan from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and not link it to recognizing Israel.

"It needs a deep discussion within our society," Hamdok told reporters earlier this week.

Several Sudanese officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, said civilian leaders prefer to wait with any deal until after the U.S. election.

The officials said military leaders seek a quick U.S.-Sudan deal, including normalization with Israel, in exchange for an aid package. The officials said the military fears incentives being offered now could be withdrawn after the U.S. election.

One sticking point is the size of future aid to Sudan. A meeting in Abu Dhabi last month—attended by Sudanese, U.S. and Emirati officials—ended without agreement.

Azerbaijan says Armenia targets cities outside conflict zone

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP)—The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces continued Sunday over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, with Azerbaijan accusing Armenia of targeting the country's cities that are far beyond the conflict zone.

Hikmet Hajiyev, aide to Azerbaijani President Ilkham Aliyev, said Sunday that Armenia targeted large cities Ganja and Mingachevir with missile strikes. Ganja, home to several hundred thousand residents and the country's second-largest city, is located roughly 100 kilometers (about 60 miles) away from Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's capital, and so is Mingachevir.

The clashes erupted on Sept. 27 and have killed dozens, marking the biggest escalation in the decades-old conflict over the region, which lies within Azerbaijan but is controlled by local ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia.

Hajiyev on Sunday tweeted a video depicting damaged buildings, and called it the result of "Armenia's massive missile attacks against dense residential areas" in Ganja. It wasn't immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the video.

Hajiyev said in another tweet on Sunday evening that Armenian forces also hit Mingachevir, which "hosts a water reservoir and key electricity plant," with a missile strike.

Armenia's Defense Ministry vehemently denied the claims. The ministry's spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian wrote on Facebook that "no fire was opened from Armenia in the direction of Azerbaijan" and called the accusations "desperate convulsions of the Azerbaijani side."

Nagorno-Karabakh's leader, Arayik Harutyunyan, said on Facebook that he ordered "rocket attacks to neutralize military objects" in Ganja, but later told his forces to stop firing to avoid civilian casualties. His spokesman Vahram Poghosyan told Armenian media on Sunday evening there was no reason for Nagorno-Karabakh forces to target Mingachevir.

Azerbaijani officials denied that any military objects had been hit in Ganja, but said the attack caused damage to civilian infrastructure. One civilian has been killed, and 32 others sustained injuries, authorities said.

"Opening fire on the territory of Azerbaijan from the territory of Armenia is clearly provocative and expands the zone of hostilities," Azerbaijani Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov said in a statement Sunday.

According to Hajiyev, no serious damage was inflicted on the infrastructure in Mingachevir, but "civilians (have been) wounded."

As the fighting resumed Sunday morning, Armenian officials accused Azerbaijan of carrying out strikes on Stepanakert and targeting the civilian population there. Nagorno-Karabakh's leader Harutyunyan said that in response, his forces would target "military facilities permanently located in major cities of Azerbaijan."

In a statement issued later on Sunday, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry rejected accusations of targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2020 Nissan Titan stands tall in battle with giants

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's an uphill, rugged road for any truck maker that dares to challenge the Big 3 in the massive full-size pickup segment.

That's because the market is driven by brand loyalty and the Big 3 has a vice grip on it. Americans love their trucks—some 2.4 million were sold in the U.S. last year alone—and most buyers tend to stay with domestic nameplates like Ford, Chevrolet and Ram.

Still, Nissan has no plans to settle for its little share of the truck market (reported to be around 1.4 percent) and has introduced promising changes for the 2020 Titan. Consider a best-in-class 400 horsepower and new 9-speed transmission, expanded standard safety features, new technology, and monitors to help maneuver the beast in tight parking lots.

And, for domestic loyalists, know that the Titan is built in Mississippi.

The plethora of improvements are part of a $230 million refresh of this second-generation Titan, introduced in 2016. It has exterior updates on front fenders and bumper, three new grille choices, each unique to the trim level, and five wheel options. It gets distinctive LED "double boomerang" headlights, and four new LEDs in the cargo bed. Opt for the Platinum Reserve, tops among the five trim levels, and get satin chrome grille and chrome tailgate trim, lighted chrome running boards and two-tone paint.

While competitors offer multiple engine choices, Nissan still only has the single 5.6 liter V-8, but it gets a small jolt to 400 hp and 413 pound-feet of torque—if you use premium fuel. Nissan says that's best-in-class among the standard V-8s out there. The high-octane gas isn't required but you'll lose about 10 horses.

Either way, Titan's powertrain should not disappoint. It is slightly quicker from the get-go, with credit going to engine retuning and a 9-speed transmission that replaced the 7-speed. It gets up the on-ramp with authority and reaches 60 mph smoothly in less than 7 seconds. And you'll find the transmission is quick-shifting and precise in its decision-making.

Despite its heft, the Titan offers a stiffer but comfortable ride, maintaining good composure on curves. The cabin is quieter this year thanks to new acoustic laminated glass.

In more demanding conditions, Titan performs well, too. In performance tests conducted last fall, car mags reported it exhibited no strain getting up to highway speed even while towing a trailer of four snowmobiles weighing nearly 5,000 pounds.

Properly equipped, Titan has a maximum towing capacity of 9,370 pounds and payload cap of 1,680 pounds. Granted, the towing figure is lowest in the segment but Titan does offer benefits like trailer sway control, trailer brake controller, and a specific tow/haul mode with downhill speed control. Available on the Platinum Reserve's 5.6-foot cargo bed are watertight cargo boxes and adjustable aluminum hooks on tracks.

With an empty cargo bed, expect an unimpressive 15 mpg around town, 21 highway, for a combined figure of 18.

Brightening the interior is an all-new, dual-pane sunroof—a first for Titan. Seats on the Platinum Reserve are well padded and comfortable, trimmed in leather and heated/ventilated, as is the steering wheel. Rear seats are heated, too, and those can be folded down flipped up for some extra under-floor storage.

Nissan expanded its standard infotainment screen to 8 inches, which is now the largest standard screen in the segment; a 9-incher is available with the Platinum. Nissan says the new screen has WXGA resolution which has a higher resolution than HD. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard features now, and an optional 12-speaker Fender audio system can blast tunes with great volume and clarity.

While driver visibility is good in all directions, Nissan's IAVM (Intelligent Around View Monitor) captures everything you can't see. An amazing feature, it shows front, rear and side views; you can do split screens for multiple angles or press the camera button and cycle through different views.

Other advanced features falling under the umbrella of Nissan's new Safety Shield 360 include automatic emergency braking (a first for Titan) with pedestrian detection, rear automatic braking (Nissan says Titan stands alone on that one), lane departure and blind spot warnings.

So here's the deal: Nissan is looking for truck buyers—especially newcomers to the pickup world—who aren't married to the Big 3 and may not need the top numbers when it comes to horsepower and towing. The Titan is great-looking, solid and plenty capable for most and, with its midcycle improvements, is worth a good look.

(NISSAN MOTOR CORPORATION/TNS)
Front view of 2020 Nissan Titan Platinum Reserve.

Motormouth: Why did the clutch go out?

Q: With just over 39,000 miles on the car, the clutch went out and we are going to be paying $1,700 for a new clutch. It is not part of the extra insurance coverage we bought from the dealer at the time of purchase because it is not considered part of the drivetrain. I have driven manual transmission cars most of my adult life including three earlier Hondas. I have never had a clutch go out until now. Is it possible that Honda "cheaped out" on the clutch mechanism because it is a seldom sought option or is it just that we are unlucky? I am at the point where I think we should trade the car in and settle for an automatic transmission.

—A.D., Chicago

A: Let's face it: Mechanical stuff may fail and often does. I would certainly argue that the transmission is part of the drivetrain. The drivetrain consists of everything from the engine to the drive wheels and the transmission (flywheel, clutch disk, pressure plate, throw-out bearing, slave cylinder) are part of it. Google it. You will find dozens of pictures.

Q: The key for my GM-dealer-installed wheel locks stripped out after having the tires rotated three times. The tech at the dealership had a master key and replaced the locking lugs with the originals at no charge. He said the keys are made of a softer metal than the lugs and that this happens all the time. His advice: People steal cars, not wheels, so forget about lug locks.

—C.V., St. Charles, Ill.

A: People do, indeed, steal wheels. They are easy to fence and hard to trace. You must determine your own level of risk based on where you park your car while at work or home. A determined wheel thief has tools to remove locking lug nuts. They are readily available. Cordless impact guns make the job quick and easy.

Q: I am writing to you about a recent column. C.B. of Pompano Beach, Fla., asked about red hands on the dash of their 2016 Mercedes S550. I immediately texted my son for the answer. He is a Mercedes Benz master tech. His response: It means you need to put your hands back on the steering wheel and move it slightly so the car knows that you are still in control.

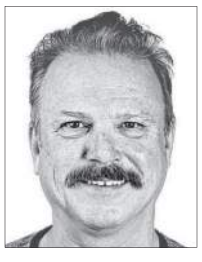
—L.M., Rolling Meadows. Ill.

A: Yep.

Q: I drive a 2010 Ford Fusion with the V-6 3.0-liter engine. The car has 132,000 miles on it and runs great. One hot day last summer, the air conditioning inexplicably quit blowing cold air and then inexplicably started working again. I researched online and saw a suggestion that when this occurs to turn the thermostat dial to full heat and then notch by notch slowly dial it back down to the cooler settings. This always works and somewhere close to the coldest setting cool air starts blowing again. Out of the blue this same situation happened recently and the trick with the thermostat dial corrected things. I plan to keep the car a couple more years and would be OK with this intermittent air conditioning problem if I could be confident the thermostat dial trick would work consistently. What gives though?

—P.G., LaGrange Park, Ill.

A: Condensation from the humid air must be drained from the HVAC housing. If not, ice builds up on the A/C evaporator fins preventing air from flowing through. Turning up the heat or allowing the car to sit melts the ice. But then, it eventually happens again. Unclogging the drain hose will end the freeze-melt cycle.



By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Life & Style

James Bond film 'No Time To Die' pushed again, to 2021

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The release of the James Bond film "No Time To Die" has been delayed again, this time to 2021, because of the effects of COVID-19 on the theatrical business.

MGM, Universal and Bond producers, Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, said on Twitter Friday that the 25th installment in the franchise will now open globally on April 2, 2021.

"No Time To Die" was originally supposed to open in April 2020 but was pushed back to Nov. 12 in the U.K. and Nov. 20 in the U.S. It was one of the first Hollywood films to abandon its release before cinemas in the U.S. shut down in mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The film from director Cary Joji Fukunaga stars Daniel Craig as 007, Rami Malek, Lashana Lynch and Ana de Armas.

Craig

In a related move, Universal moved its "F9," the ninth installment of the "Fast & Furious" franchise starring Vin Diesel to May 28. Its previous April 2 release date would have put it in direct competition with Bond.

Other major studios have made similar decisions over the past few weeks.

Cinemas remain closed in New York and Los Angeles, two of North America's biggest markets.

Ticket sales for Warner Bros.' "Tenet," the first blockbuster to open in theaters worldwide after months of coronavirus-related closures, have not been as strong as hoped for in the U.S.

The Walt Disney Co. last week delayed the planned 2020 releases of a handful of major movies until 2021. They include Marvel's "Black Widow" and Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story." Universal delayed "Candyman" to next year.

Some major releases are still planned for 2020. They include "Wonder Woman 1984," which was pushed back to Christmas after multiple delays and Kenneth Branagh's mystery "Death on the Nile." It is now set for Dec. 18.

TV's 'Warrior' latest proof that Bruce Lee still holds sway

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
This image released by Cinemax shows Andrew Koji in a scene from the drama series "Warrior."

Even nearly 50 years after his death, Bruce Lee can still make ripples.

From this summer's ESPN documentary, "Be Water," to Quentin Tarantino's heavily criticized depiction of him in "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood," the martial arts legend continues to captivate audiences.

That continues with "Warrior," a Cinemax historical drama inspired by his original idea and premiering its second season Friday. A screen icon who struggled with racism, Lee is now influencing the careers of the mostly Asian cast as Hollywood faces a national reckoning on race and representation.

"I'm more proud of something like 'Warrior' than if I was putting on a superhero costume and being the token Asian," said leading man Andrew Koji, who credits the show with helping him land the role of Storm Shadow opposite Henry Golding in the upcoming "G.I. Joe" movie "Snake Eyes."

"It has helped me open doors, literally, but also in terms of confidence in my ability."

Koji plays the series' titular warrior, Chinese immigrant Ah Sahm who arrives in 1870s San Francisco. "Game of Thrones" level carnage ensues. Instead of warring houses, there are warring Chinatown gangs known as tongs. The crime drama doesn't shy away from showing anti-Chinese racism—painfully relatable 150 years later in the COVID-19 era.

"They wrote this a year and a half ago," Koji said. "It's just scary how relevant it is because we haven't learned."

The production came from an eight-page, typed treatment Lee offered to Warner Bros. in 1971. But the studio "wouldn't sign off on having a Chinese man star in an American TV series," according to daughter, Shannon Lee.

The treatment and Lee's accompanying handwritten notes sat in his family's garage until 2015, when "The Fast and the Furious" franchise director Justin Lin asked Shannon Lee about it. Lin helped get the concept on the development track and became an executive producer. Jonathan Tropper, co-creator of the show "Banshee" and a Lee fan-boy, boarded as showrunner.

Koji, who is of Japanese and British descent, studied martial arts growing up but knew little about Lee. He's since consumed Lee's movies, writings and philosophies. In the beginning, Koji was worried that he was essentially playing Lee and that people would compare them. But Shannon Lee assured him that they wanted the best actor, not martial artist.

"She said 'No, just keep doing your thing. Don't worry about finding out who Bruce Lee is,'" Koji said.

It remains unclear whether "Warrior" will get a third season. Cinemax decided earlier this year to stop producing original programming. Canceling it would especially hurt in a TV landscape with few Asian-led vehicles.

Shannon Lee isn't giving up on finding a new home for "Warrior," which will eventually be available on HBO Max. It's helped reveal another side of her father, she said.

"I think he's really getting his due as a creative—someone who knows how to story-tell," Shannon Lee said. "We're finally getting to see he wasn't just a flash in the pan."

Any fan of Lee—who died in 1973 at age 32 after an allergic reaction to pain medication—will recognize his DNA in the brutal, blood-spilling fights.

Dustin Nguyen, a star on the original "21 Jump Street" series in the '80s, plays a menacing tong leader and directed an episode this season. A huge fan who studied under Lee's old training partner, Nguyen helped sprinkle in nods to his idol.

"It's just little things that the writers put in there to pay homage to Bruce Lee without being a caricature, which I think is the danger zone whenever you get to the subject of Bruce Lee," Nguyen said. "There's lots of bad caricatures and portrayals of who he is and what people think he is."

One of those, in Shannon Lee's view, was her father's "cameo" in last year's "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood" movie. She was incensed watching a boastful Bruce challenge Brad Pitt's stuntman to a fight. It was especially "irresponsible" as Tarantino never consulted her but spoke with families of other real-life characters.

Friendship mysteriously ends after 30-year relationship

DEAR ABBY: I need help moving past the end of a longtime friendship. I don't know what happened. My friend, my former college roommate, just drifted away.

After school we continued to be friends—not besties, but we would meet for coffee or dinner a few times a year. Fast-forward 25 years. She called me the day she left her husband, 10 years ago, to tell me the news. I was her emotional lifeline for a few days, and it was intense. We continued to be in touch a few times a year.

Then, a few years ago, I sent a message suggesting we meet soon. She replied that she was busy but would get back to me about a date, but she never did. I waited six months and again suggested we meet. She replied that she had a conflict but would let me know a date that would work. She didn't do it. I didn't reach out again and haven't heard from her since. It has been three years, and I know through other sources she is doing well.

I'm having difficulty dealing with being dropped after a 30-year friendship. I can't think of anything I did to cause it, and I don't understand how a friendship like that can just be kaput. What do you think?

DISAPPOINTED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I find it interesting that when this woman was in turmoil, she reached out to you. However, after her marriage and the emotional dust-up that surrounded it, I suspect she may have decided to close that chapter of her life.

You stated that the two of you didn't stay in contact other than "a few times a year." Think back. Did she contact you only when she needed emotional support? If that's the case, recognize the relationship for what it was. Now that she is doing well, she may be firmly focused on the present rather than the past, and frankly, although it may sting, I think you should do the same.

DEAR ABBY: I have a family friend who at one time I considered to be like a sister. The issue is, my family hosts her family every Thanksgiving. They are never invited. They just say they are coming over. They bring drinks, more for themselves than for us. Their kids run around, break things and behave disrespectfully, while the parents seem to regard the behavior as amusing. They also bring along Tupperware for leftovers but don't bother staying around to help clean up.

When my family told them we weren't cooking for Thanksgiving last year, her response was that they'd do something just for their immediate family. I was shocked, because my family has hosted them for more than 15 years. I have kept my distance since, but I'm still upset about it. How do I bring up the subject without anyone getting their feelings hurt?

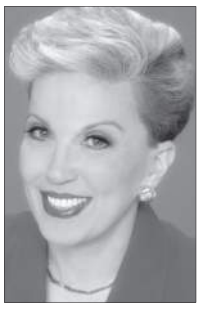
RETURNING THE FAVOR

DEAR RETURNING THE FAVOR: Why are you worried about bruising the feelings of these self-entitled people? They haven't shown they are concerned about your family's feelings. Be glad to be rid of them. If the subject comes up, tell her that your family has again made "other plans" for Thanksgiving -- just YOUR immediate family.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

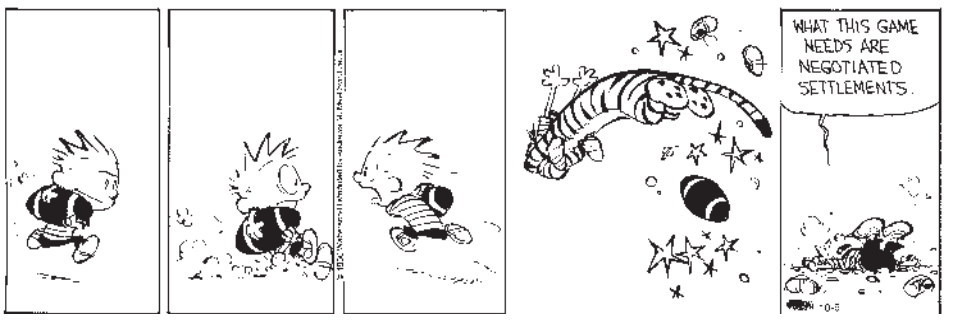


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

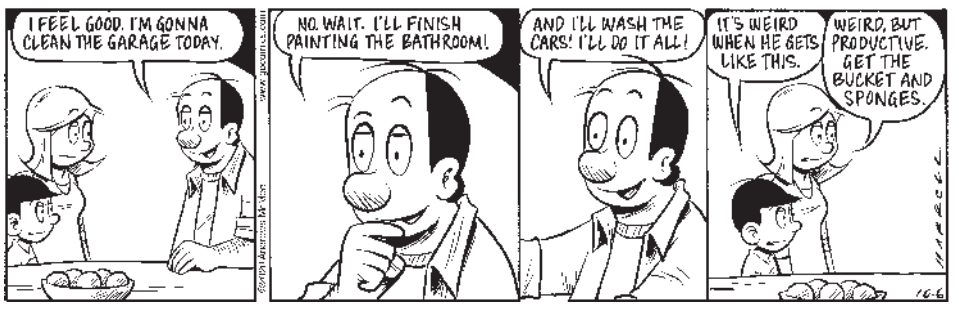


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I FEEL GOOD. I'M GONNA CLEAN THE GARAGE TODAY.
NO. WAIT. I'LL FINISH PAINTING THE BATHROOM!
AND I'LL WASH THE CARS! I'LL DO IT ALL!
IT'S WEIRD WHEN HE GETS LIKE THIS.
WEIRD, BUT PRODUCTIVE. GET THE BUCKET AND SPONGES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WE'RE CLOSE TO HAVING A VACCINE FOR THE VIRUS. IT'S PROVEN TO WORK ON OUR TEST ANIMALS.
BUT WE NEED TO MAKE SURE IT'S EFFECTIVE ON HUMANS.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
WOULD YOU MIND KISSING A MONKEY?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

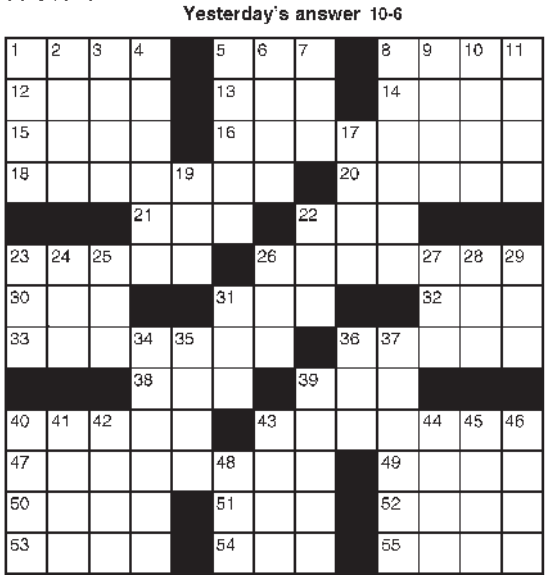
ACROSS
1 Oboe, for one
5 — -Magnon
8 Whack
12 Not busy
13 Tyler of "Jersey Girl"
14 Commotion
15 Abel's brother
16 CNN journalist/anchor Christiane
18 Female warriors
20 West Pointer
21 Work unit
22 — de cologne
23 Bank structure
26 Dental filler
30 TGIF part
31 Winter ailment
32 Acapulco gold
33 Mozart's middle name
36 Sound
38 Coffee vessel
39 Hostel
40 In the — way (very much)
43 Piled up
47 Non-professionals
49 Within (Pref.)
50 Concerning
51 Observe
52 Highly-rated
53 Fibbed
54 Chicago winter hrs.
55 Slope transport

DOWN
1 Costa — 2 Dutch cheese
3 Director Kazan
4 "Flight" actor Washington
5 Trolley sound
6 Eyeglass frames
7 Eggs
8 Minn.'s capital
9 Fireplace fuel
10 Together, in music
11 Legal wrong
17 March Madness gp.
19 Scrap
22 Outback bird
23 By way of
24 Cash dispenser
25 Dos Passos trilogy
26 Gore and Green
27 Pantheon member
28 "Exodus" hero
29 Cattle call
31 Gaiety
34 Checked for prints
35 Deco artist
36 Literary collection
37 Oust from office
39 "No more for me, thanks"
40 Banshee's cry
41 High-end hotel chain
42 Scarce
43 Villain in "Wonder Woman"
44 Uppity one
45 Author Ferber
46 Active sort
48 Trojans' sch.

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	M	I	S		H	B	I		A	S	P	S
L	I	E	U		E	R	R		L	A	N	A
I	R	A	S		M	A	I	N	C	R	A	G
S	A	L	A	M	I		S	P	R	A	Y	S
			N	I	N	A		R	I	T		
M	A	I	N	D	I	S	H		N	C	A	H
B	I	N		I	S	L	A	M		G	M	A
A	L	H	A		M	A	I	N	S	A	I	L
		I	D	S		P	R	O	P			
O	F	N	C	T	E		I	P	H	C	N	E
M	A	I	N	L	I	N	E		E	V	A	N
A	S	T	I		R	R	S		R	A	I	D
R	T	E	S		E	A	T		E	L	L	S

Yesterday's answer 10-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Sisto, 46; Amy Jo Johnson, 50; Elisabeth Shue, 57; Britt Ekland, 78.

Happy Birthday: Take more time to do things that make you happy. Discuss your intentions with the people you want to be involved in your plans. Look for viable solutions that will help you dismiss situations you no longer want to have as burdens. Concentrate on learning, discovering and enjoying enlightenment. Take action, and make changes to the way you handle and earn money. Your numbers are 8, 13, 23, 28, 31, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider what you've been doing to earn your keep and how you can adjust your daily routine to suit your needs. Striving for a healthier, happier lifestyle will ease stress and bring you closer to someone who shares your values. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Safe socializing will be a must if you want to maintain good health. Physical improvements will lift your spirits and prompt someone you love to notice. Romance is in the stars and will lead to talks about intentions and long-term plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Avoid getting into a standoff with someone you love. Listen, and look for solutions that will not jeopardize a meaningful relationship or your integrity. Channel your energy into creative ideas and pastimes. Don't do anything for people who won't do it for themselves. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't react irrationally regarding something you cannot change. Look for the positive in whatever situation you face, and you'll come up with a workable solution that will encourage you to look, be and do your best. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Calm down, stay focused and avoid confrontations. Don't feel you have to get involved in other people's melodramas. Consider what's best for you and how to use your skills to get ahead. Channel your anger and frustration into achievement. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put emotional matters aside, and focus on whatever brings the highest return. Use your intelligence to come up with a unique way to use your skills to improve your personal and professional life. Romance will encourage a positive lifestyle change. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Uncertainty at home will change the way you live and how you do things. Address shared expenses to maintain equality. Pulling your weight will make a difference in the way others treat you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Emotional spending will lead to trouble. Don't subject yourself to individuals who have not been social distancing. A change regarding how you take care of your responsibilities will affect your income. Be proactive, and suggest alternatives that are just as efficient. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* An emotional situation will surface if someone challenges your beliefs and values. Listen carefully, but don't reveal your opinion. It's best to keep the peace and go about your business. Silence is golden. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change you make will upset someone, but it will be beneficial. Offer compensation for what someone has to give up so you can get your way. Maintaining equality will encourage a better relationship as you move forward. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of your home, family and yourself. Rest, proper diet and exercise will help you stay healthy. Refuse to let a change someone puts into play cause stress and anxiety. Do your own thing, and focus on self-improvement. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotional upset will interfere with your productivity if you give in to someone's manipulative tactics. Make changes that suit your needs and help you protect your position, reputation and financial security. Money or a gift is heading your way. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, helpful and curious. You are generous and persevering.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		5		1		9	
		9		4		2		
				7				
1			6		4			9
	2	4				5	3	
7			1		2			8
				9				
		7		2		6		
	5		8		3		7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	1	9	7	2	3	5	8
9	8	5	6	3	4	2	7	1
2	7	3	8	1	5	4	6	9
6	1	8	7	2	9	5	4	3
3	2	9	4	5	8	6	1	7
7	5	4	3	6	1	9	8	2
5	3	7	2	8	6	1	9	4
8	4	6	1	9	3	7	2	5
1	9	2	5	4	7	8	3	6

Difficulty Level ★ 10/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ROY HORN (1939-2020) **Solution: 7 letters**

F	S	N	E	M	E	R	B	A	V	A	R	I	A	T
W	I	X	T	N	A	H	P	E	L	E	S	W	A	S
C	E	S	T	D	M	A	N	F	R	E	D	O	N	T
H	G	R	C	E	L	B	M	A	G	N	L	O	W	A
E	F	E	N	H	R	O	G	A	I	F	I	I	O	G
E	R	G	N	E	B	E	B	M	W	L	R	E	H	E
T	I	I	Y	N	R	A	A	Y	D	E	A	M	S	D
A	E	T	W	M	N	H	C	E	U	A	U	I	L	R
H	D	Y	A	N	N	A	L	H	L	M	G	E	A	A
Y	O	N	A	E	S	M	O	F	E	R	A	H	M	P
R	Y	H	D	I	A	T	R	M	W	R	J	N	I	O
U	O	R	N	R	E	E	I	R	U	V	O	E	N	E
J	O	O	E	L	D	L	S	A	G	E	V	S	A	L
N	A	I	C	I	G	A	M	M	I	R	R	O	R	S
I	L	L	U	S	I	O	N	S	E	G	A	R	I	M

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Alfred, Animals, Bavaria, Bernie, Bold, Bremen, Casino, Cheetah, Delmare, Elephant, Emil, Fischbacher, Float, Gamble, Germany, Hexe, Hotel, Illusions, Injury, Jaguar, Johanna, Las Vegas, Leopard, Lions, Magician, Manfred, Mirage, Mirrors, Nordenham, Rosenheim, Roy, Ruvo, Saws, Show, Siegfried, Stage, Tigers, Uwe Ludwig, Werner, Wynn, Yuman

Yesterday's Answer: Vigilant

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60** order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Butler's big night helps Heat take Game 3

FLORIDA (AP)—Jimmy Butler is not ready to go home.

A triple-double later, he joined NBA Finals lore—and the short-handed Miami Heat might have made this title matchup a series after all.

Butler finished with 40 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, and the Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 115-104 on Sunday night to get within 2-1—doing so with starters Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic still unable to play because of injury.

It was the third 40-point triple-double in finals history, Butler coming up with the game of his life when the Heat needed it most. He was 14 for 20 from the field, and after the Heat surrendered a double-digit lead early in the fourth he made sure this one wouldn't get away.

"Win," Butler said. "I don't care about triple-doubles. I don't care about none of that. I really don't. I want to win. We did that. I'm happy with the outcome."

Game 4 is Tuesday night. Tyler Herro and Kelly Olynyk each had 17 points for Miami, which got 13 from Duncan Robinson and 12 from Jae Crowder.

LeBron James had 25 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers, while Kyle Kuzma and Markieff Morris each had 19 points off the bench. Anthony Davis managed 15 for the Lakers.

Whenever the Heat looked ready to pull away and grab control of Game 3, the Lakers always found a way to find their best gear.

A 13-point Heat lead in the early going? The Lakers had the lead back in less than five minutes.

A 14-point Heat lead after a 10-0 run to start the second half? The Lakers scored the next eight.

A 12-point Heat lead late in the third? It took the Lakers less than five minutes to put together a 20-6 run, taking the lead back at 91-89 with 8:55 left on a layup by Rajon Rondo.

But the rest of the way was all Miami, Butler simply unwilling to let his team go down 3-0. The only other time Miami was down 2-0 in a finals was 2006, when Dwyane Wade took over and led the Heat all the way back.

AP

Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) attempts to block Los Angeles Lakers' Alex Caruso (4) during the first half in Game 3 of the NBA Finals, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

This time, it was Butler—another Marquette guy—in that role.

"I think we realized that we belong," Butler said.

It was 22-9 Miami after eight minutes, with the Heat coming out desperate to make this a series and the Lakers looking nothing like a team on the cusp of a title—with nine turnovers in the same time span it took them to score nine points.

Games change quickly, and the Lakers had the lead back with 10:09 left in the half. Kyle Kuzma's three-point play made it 29-28 Lakers, and Alex Caruso's 3-pointer gave the Lakers their biggest lead of the half at 37-33 to cap what was an 28-11 run.

The Heat answered with an 11-0 burst to take the lead back. Davis got his third foul with 5:28 left and Miami up by five, but the Lakers weathered his absence and went into the break down just 58-54.

James' turnovers, Davis' fouls doom Lakers

LeBron James powered into the lane, looking to take another step toward an NBA title.

Instead, he took too many steps.

James was whistled for traveling, ending a possession that could have given the Los Angeles Lakers a fourth-quarter lead.

A couple minutes later, he did it again.

In the time of the game when he usually turns it up, James turned it over Sunday night, part of a sloppy performance by the Lakers in a loss to the Miami Heat in Game 3.

"It wasn't about effort, it was just about execution," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

Knocked off track early by Anthony Davis' first-quarter foul trouble, the Lakers wasted a chance to take a 3-0 lead, which has never been blown in NBA playoff history.

Los Angeles committed 20 turnovers that led to 21 Miami points, with James committing a game-high eight of them.

"Just silly turnovers," said Davis, who had four in his limited first-quarter stint.

"Offensive fouls, miscommunication on some passes, but we've just got to be better overall. I mean, we'll be fine."

"You just can't turn the ball over versus that team," James said, "and I take full responsibility for that."

James and Davis had been putting up numbers like Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant through the first two games of the series. With Miami short-handed, the only intrigue seemed to be which of the two Lakers superstars would win the NBA Finals MVP award.

Now there's much more intrigue than that.

But the Lakers never lost again after their defeats in each of the three previous rounds, finishing each series in five games. They can still do that now.

James said the Lakers don't feel concerned because they know they can play a lot better, adding that this team learns quickly from its mistakes.

He vowed to cut down on the ones he made.

"I'll be a lot better with the security of the ball and the turnovers and the things of that nature," James said, "and we as a team will be a lot better defensively with our game plan."

No days off puts stress on pitchers in Division Series, LCS

NEW YORK (AP) —Postseason games come at an unprecedented pace starting Monday in this year of the pandemic.

Teams could play the Division Series over five straight days, take a single day off and then contest the League Championship Series on seven consecutive days. That could stress closers such as Aroldis Chapman, Liam Hendriks and Kenley Jansen, and starters like Gerrit Cole and Walker Buehler.

"I'm old school, I guess, but it's all about winning. And if they needed me, I wanted them to put me in there," said Darold Knowles, who helped Oakland win the 1973 title by becoming the first to pitch in all seven World Series games. "I think that's the way everybody feels now, but they're so afraid they're going to hurt somebody. And I understand that. I think it's a little bit overdone."

No one has pitched in games for five straight days since Shawn Tolleson for Texas from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, 2015, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The last to pitch for seven straight days was San Francisco's Steve Kline from July 31 to Aug. 6, 2007.

"The five days in a row would be interesting, right? You would have to be really efficient the first four days for that to happen," New York Yankees reliever Zack Britton said. "But if it's a winner-take-all game, you're going do it because that's what you need to do to win."

The Division Series has had a 2-2-1 format since 1998, with a day off scheduled between Games 2 and 3, then another between Games 4 and 5 as the teams shift to each other's ballpark. The League Championship Series has had a 2-3-2 format since 1985, with days off between Games 2 and 3, then another between Games 5 and 6.

Travel days were eliminated as Major League Baseball switched to a bubble environment in an attempt to avoid October interruptions caused by COVID-19.

AL Division Series start Monday, when the Yankees and Tampa Bay play at San Diego's Petco Park, and Oakland and Houston meet at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. NL Division Series open the Tuesday, with Miami facing Atlanta at Houston's Minute Maid Park and San Diego going against the Dodgers at new Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

To start twice in the Division Series, Game 1 pitchers would have to come back on three days' rest.

"The change was purely a product the timing we needed to institute the bubble and avoid extending the end date of the postseason," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "We always are concerned about player health, but the number of days in a row is not all that different from stretches in the regular season and we have expanded rosters."

Union head Tony Clark said the schedule was set at MLB's discretion.

"The original draft of the postseason schedule we received on 7/31 had fewer off days but didn't eliminate them," he wrote in an email. "We didn't see the revised schedule until right before it went out publicly."

Winners advance to the ALCS in Arlington starting Sunday and the NLCS in San Diego beginning Oct. 12. The World Series opening Oct. 20 will keep the days off in the 2-3-2 format used since 1924, even though it will be played entirely in Arlington.

Reaching the World Series will test an entire pitching staff more than usual. Washington used five pitchers for 31 of 36 innings of its sweep of St. Louis in last year's NL Championship and three pitchers—Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin—for 89 2/3 innings among 153 in the postseason, or 59%.

"You can't just send your closer out there for two innings and think those guys are going to continue to to be able to do that. They'd probably be willing to do it, but it's probably not going to be the most successful way forward," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "I don't mind it honestly, It tests your depth of a pitching staff and the way you do things You don't need the off days. You're not traveling."

Brady throws for 5 TDs, Bucs top Chargers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady is introducing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a new way of winning.

The six-time Super Bowl champion led a come-from-behind victory for the first time since joining his new team, throwing for 369 yards and five touchdowns to help the Bucs rally from a 17-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Chargers 38-31 on Sunday.

It's the 46th time Brady has delivered a winning drive in the fourth-quarter or overtime of a regular-season game—fourth on the NFL behind Peyton Manning (54), Drew Brees (50) and Dan Marino (47). The 43-year-old quarterback has overcome a deficit of 10 or more points to win a league-best 34 times, including postseason.

"Tom, he's never behind in his mind. We can always make plays to win games," coach Bruce Arians said.

"How can you not believe in him? He's the greatest to ever do it," receiver Scotty Miller said. "We just go in there and follow his lead."

With several members of the newly crowned Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning cheering on from a suite at Raymond James Stadium—along with the Cup—Brady shrugged off throwing an early interception returned from a touchdown to keep the Bucs (3-1) in first place in the NFC South.

Brady completed 30 of 46 passes with one interception and zero sacks. It was the seventh five-TD performance of his career, first since Sept. 24, 2017 for New England against Houston.

AP

Los Angeles Chargers free safety Desmond King II (20) upends Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Ronald Jones (27) on a run during the first half of an NFL game Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, in Tampa, Fla.

Browns 49, Cowboys 38

Baker Mayfield threw for two touchdowns, one of which was set up when Myles Garrett had a strip sack for the third straight game, and Cleveland held on for a victory over Dallas to improve to 3-1 for the first time since 2001.

Jarvis Landry had his first career touchdown pass in the receiver's 100th career game, a 37-yard toss to Odell Beckham Jr. in Beckham's first multi-TD game with the Browns.

Beckham finished with his first three-score game in nearly five years, capped by a 50-yard run on a reverse after the Cowboys had cut a 41-14 deficit to three points with less than four minutes remaining. He had five catches for 81 yards and two scores.

Eagles 25, 49ers 20

Carson Wentz hit Travis Fulgham on a 42-yard touchdown pass with 5:50 remaining to lift Philadelphia to its first win of the season, beating San Francisco.

With the Eagles (1-2-1) missing their top three receivers and No. 2 tight end Dallas Goedert, the little-known Fulgham delivered the play of the game for Philadelphia.

The Eagles were backed up with a second-and-18 from the 42 after Jalen Hurts botched a shotgun snap. But Fulgham got past backup cornerback Dontae Johnson and Wentz delivered a perfectly placed pass for the score that gave Philadelphia an 18-14 lead.

Ravens 31, Washington 17

Lamar Jackson ran for a 50-yard touchdown and threw for two scores in a bounce-back performance by the reigning NFL MVP and Baltimore, which took control early and beat Washington.

Coming off a humbling loss to Kansas City on Monday night, the Ravens (3-1) built a 21-10 halftime lead before opening the third quarter with a drive that ended with Mark Andrews' second touchdown catch.

That was enough to hand Washington (1-3) its third straight defeat.

Bills 30, Raiders 23

Shaking off a banged-up left shoulder, Josh Allen threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another, leading Buffalo to a victory over Las Vegas.

Buffalo has opened consecutive seasons with 4-0 records, just the third time in team history and first since the 1991 and '92, both season when the Bills lost in the Super Bowl.

The Bills have scored 30 points in three consecutive games, and are averaging 30.75 points per game, third highest in the NFL.

Saints 35, Lions 29

Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Tre'Quan Smith 2:19 apart in the second quarter, helping short-handed New Orleans overcome a 14-point deficit and beat Detroit.

New Orleans (2-2) started the game without six injured starters after a short night of rest. The Saints had a player test falsely positive for the coronavirus Saturday, according to a person familiar with the situation, leading to another round of tests for players and staff overnight in the Motor City.

Bengals 33, Jaguars 25

Joe Mixon ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns and caught Joe Burrow's pass for another score as Cincinnati rolled up 505 yards to beat Jacksonville.

The Bengals (1-2-1) worked around their recent offensive line problems and Mixon broke through with his first big game of the season, which opened up the field for Burrow to hit some big passes. The Heisman Trophy-winning rookie was sharp again, throwing for 300 yards and the touchdown to Mixon.

Seahawks 31, Dolphins 23

Russell Wilson threw for 360 yards and two touchdowns as Seattle beat Miami.

The Seahawks (4-0) have scored 30 or more points in four consecutive games for the first time since 2015.

Seattle forced Miami to settle for five field goals before the Dolphins finally reached the end zone in the final minutes.

Vikings 31, Texans 23

Dalvin Cook ran for 130 yards and two touchdowns and Minnesota withstood a late rally from winless Houston.

The Texans cut the lead to 8 when Deshaun Watson connected with Kenny Stills on a 24-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-10 with about six minutes remaining.

Houston's defense got a stop and Will Fuller made an acrobatic one-handed catch on fourth down for what was initially ruled a touchdown with about a minute left. But after a review it was determined that the ball hit the ground before Fuller gained control, and Minnesota (1-3) ran out the clock from there.

Panthers 31, Cardinals 21

Teddy Bridgewater threw for 276 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score, and Carolina beat Arizona.

Bridgewater scored his first rushing touchdown since Dec. 20, 2015 on an 18-yard scramble, sidestepping several tacklers to reach the end zone and give Carolina a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. It was his first TD rushing since tearing an ACL and suffering a dislocated left kneecap during a training camp practice with the Vikings.

Colts 19, Bears 11

Philip Rivers threw a touchdown pass on Indianapolis's first possession, and the Colts shut down Nick Foles and Chicago.

After Rivers connected with Mo Alie-Cox on a 13-yard score, the NFL's top-ranked defense took over from there.

The Colts (3-1) kept the Bears (3-1) out of the end zone until Allen Robinson caught a 16-yard pass with 1:35 remaining. Indianapolis recovered the onside kick and came away with its third straight win, their best streak since beating Kansas City, Houston and Denver last October.

Players allowed to miss WCup qualifiers

SAO PAULO (AP)—FIFA decided that clubs can stop their players from participating in international matches until the end of the year depending on COVID-19 conditions in the countries to which they are traveling.

The announcement comes one week before the two opening rounds of South American World Cup qualifiers.

The council of soccer's governing body decided that clubs don't need to release players if they are expected to travel to countries that impose mandatory quarantine or self-isolation for at least five days upon arrival.

FIFA said that measure also applies if there are travel restrictions where the player is coming from or if local authorities do not grant a specific exemption.

The decision is in line with another FIFA ruling from August when the temporary changes applied to the mandatory transfer of players to European national teams.

FIFA's transfer regulations assert that clubs must release their players for official international matches. South American soccer's governing body CONMEBOL says local authorities have exempted all players coming from Europe—where many of them play—from quarantines or self-isolation.

Last week Major League Soccer, the top league in the United States, said it would not release its players for South American World Cup qualifiers. That decision affects Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela's national teams.

The global soccer body said the decision "took into consideration the role the FIFA protocol will play in the mitigation of risks related to COVID-19 and in obtaining the required exemptions from authorities for sportspersons travelling internationally for the purpose of matches with their national teams."

The opening rounds of South American World Cup qualifiers will be on Oct.8-9, and Oct. 13. Other rounds are to be scheduled before the end of the year.

South America is one of the regions hardest hit by the pandemic. Brazil accounts more than 140,000 deaths attributed to the coronavirus, second only to the United States. Argentina, Chile, Peru and Ecuador have also been hit hard by the pandemic.

Thiem, Nadal reach quarters; Wawrinka ousted

PARIS—Waking up early Friday for his third-round match at the French Open, Dominic Thiem was surprised to see the morning skies were still dark.

Yup, Roland Garros in autumn, when the sun is slower to rouse itself than during the usual May-June slot, takes some getting used to. But, on court, the U.S. Open champion is adjusting just fine to the peculiarities of what is the last Grand Slam tournament in a pandemic-hit year.

The runner-up last year and in 2018, both times to Rafael Nadal, advanced to the fourth round for the fifth consecutive time, with another straight-set victory in this week's first encounter in Paris between seeded men.

The victim of the third-seeded Austrian's fierce backhand and super-quick court coverage under the new roof on Court Philippe Chatrier was No. 28 Casper Ruud, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

Long after early bird Thiem was done, Nadal also marched on in his pursuit of a 13th French Open title and record-tying 20 major overall. His opponent, Stefano Travaglia, was among five Italian men in third-round play, an Open Era record at a Grand Slam. But he proved no match for Nadal's overpowering clay-court game. Nadal was on court for just 95 minutes, winning 6-1, 6-4, 6-0.

Sebastian Korda, Nadal's next opponent, is the 20-year-old son of 1998 Australian Open champion Petr Korda. Korda and his third-round Spanish opponent Pedro Martinez reached the main draw via the qualifying tournament. Korda won, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1, to become the first qualifier to reach the men's fourth round since Alejandro Falla in 2011.

The 2015 champion, Stan Wawrinka, fell to French wild card Hugo Gaston, who wrapped up the 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 win with spectators' cries of "Hugo! Hugo!" ringing in his ears. Ranked 239th, Gaston next plays Thiem.

In the women's draw, top-seeded Simona Halep defeated Amanda Anisimova, 6-0, 6-1. The 19-year-old Anisimova had beaten the 2018 champion in straight sets in the quarterfinals last year.

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal serves to Sebastian Korda of the U.S. in the fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020.

Halep, riding a career-best winning streak of 17 matches, will next face another rematch against another teenager: Iga Swiatek.

Thiem, bidding to become the first Austrian with multiple Grand Slam titles, has said he loves the chilly autumnal conditions that other players have grumbled about at this pushed-back French Open.

Still, waking up in the players' bio-secured hotel at 7am for the first match on Chatrier, he was taken aback that dawn had yet to break, as it would have done in May.

"Everything dark. Winter is almost coming," he said. "That was a little bit weird."

Thiem was broken only once, when he sent a forehand wide to give Ruud a 3-1 lead in the first set. He immediately broke back and converted six of his 15 break points in all. He also saved seven of the eight break points he faced.

Ruud was bidding to become only the second Norwegian to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam.

The first was his father and coach, Christian Ruud, in 1997 at the Australian Open. He watched on Friday on Chatrier.

It was again largely empty for that match, victim of the daily limit of 1,000 spectators imposed on the clay-court Grand Slam tournament. The arena built for 15,000 rang out later in the day to shouts of "Bravo!" and "Merci!" and saw fans in face masks jumping up and down in waves as Caroline Garcia of France beat 16th-seeded Elise Mertens, 1-6, 6-4, 7-5.

"There are not many of you but you make as much noise as when it's full," Garcia told the crowd, which sheltered under the arena's new roof from a storm that interrupted play on outside courts. The 45th-ranked Garcia advanced to next face third-seeded Elina Svitolina, who beat the last of 12 Russians in the women's draw, Ekaterina Alexandrova, 6-4, 7-5.

Halep also played her third-round match in the dry under the Chatrier roof to set up her rematch against the 19-year-old Swiatek.

In the fourth round last year, Halep routed Swiatek, 6-1, 6-0, ending the Polish player's Roland Garros debut.

Swiatek is a tougher prospect this time. She has lost only 13 games, not dropped a set and beat Canadian wild card Eugenie Bouchard, 6-3, 6-2 in the third round.

Swiatek hit 30 winners and converted six of her 13 break points against the 2014 Wimbledon finalist now ranked 168th. ***(AP/NBC)***

Over 90 sign up for Lions Club bike race

More than 90 riders have signed up for the Saipan Unity Lions Club 4th Annual Bike Race that will hit the road this Sunday.

According to Saipan Unity Lions Club official Wilfredo Barbo, 94 bikers have registered online and they expect more will turn in their registration form on the day of the event.

Participants in this weekend's race can enter either the long or short course, which will start and end at Banzai Cliff with a turnaround point in Mobil Gas Station in Tanapag. Those opting for the short course will do just one lap of the race, while long course participants will round the route four times.

The event has two categories: MTB and road bikes. Organizers will award prizes to the Top 3 winners overall in each category, while victors in the 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 60-and above age groups will also be recognized.

The race will kick off at 6:30am and registration time will start at 5:30am. Registration fee is $25.

The Saipan Unity Lions Club 4th Annual Bike Race is a fundraiser with the organizing group using the proceeds from the event for its various community projects and services. ***(Roselyn Monroyo)***

BUCKETS

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were the yellow tape signaling a trophy presentation and champagne being rolled into the Lakers' locker room. Last time I checked the NBA Finals was still a best-of-seven series.

LeBron and the Anthony Davis have also been anointed as the second coming of Shaq and Kobe, minus the beef of course (but it's too early so you'd never know). They weren't talking anymore about what the Heat needed to do to get back in the series, but already counting how many championships LeBron and AD can bring to the City of Angels (not 1, not 2, not 3, not 4, not 5, not 6…).

Jimmy Butler and company wouldn't have any of that though, obviously taking a cue from coach Erik Spoelstra who famously cursed when asked what the Heat's chances were after starting the NBA Finals on a 0-2 hole. Going into Game 3, coach Spo's "We don't give a s— what everybody else thinks" outburst was clearly on Butler's mind as he just wouldn't let Miami go down without a fight. The five-time all-star was on a mission right from the get-go specially after The King trash-talked to him that the Heat were in trouble during an exchange in the first quarter.

Instead of first involving his teammates as he often does—which some say is a knock in his game—Butler was in attack mode early and often as Miami erected a lead of as much 14 points. It also helped that AD picked up three early fouls, as he and the Lakers had trouble with the new Miami zone that had the Heat's smaller players guard the perimeter as opposed to them manning the frontcourt as was the strategy in the first two games.

With Davis neutralized, the Heat would continue to lead in the second and third quarters, that's until The King decided to finally take charge. LeBron, with some help from Kyle Kuzma and Markieff Morris, would lead a Lakers rally and they even took a 2-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

But Butler would rise to the occasion after seeing the Heat go down, scoring 10 points and assisting on crucial 3-point makes by Kelly Olynyk, Tyler Herro, and Duncan Robinson down the stretch to help the Heat get back into the driver's seat and ultimately stave off any attempts at a successful response by LeBron and company.

The former Marquette star clearly outplayed LeBron in this one, completing an amazing 40-point triple double (40 points, 11 rebounds, 13 assists) in 45 minutes of action. In doing so, Butler became just the third player in NBA Finals history to record a 40-point triple double and the first to do so on the winning side. The other two were no other than LeBron himself in 2015 against the Golden State Warriors and Laker great Jerry West against the Boston Celtics in 1969.

Not bad for a player who was homeless as a child and had go to Tyler Junior College before transferring to Marquette.

So, it was just fitting that Butler barked back at Lebron in the waning seconds of Game 3 that the Lakers were the ones in trouble, perhaps teasing that Adebayo may be back for Game 4 after a neck strain kept him out of the last two games. I'm not too optimistic of Gogi returning though, as the Slovenian point guard's torn plantar fascia on the left foot may not be healing as quickly.

With or without Adebayo, the Lakers may still take Game 5 and go up with a commanding 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals. Everyone should learn their lesson though to never again count out Butler and the Heat. Butler has been counted out all his life. Do so at your own peril as the player they call Jimmy Buckets may just prove you wrong, again.

4

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don't need to play badminton to know how to umpire the game," said Pangilinan.

Badminton Oceania's Pacific Umpire Course is for two categories of officials: accredited and certified. The course will be Pangilinan's second time to be part of one of Badminton Oceania's programs. Last year during the Pacific Games, the 21-year-old athlete and her teammates on the national squad attended Shuttle Time sessions, learning how to teach the fundamentals of the sport to children in the 5-15 age group. Since coming home from Samoa, Janelle along with her sibling Jordan and teammates Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Andreau Galvez, Nicole Malasarte, and Guerrero have conducted three Shuttle Time sessions.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Nate Guerrero, center, seen here with his fellow CNMI national players demonstrating the proper way of holding a racket during the Shuttle Time session at the Oleai Sports Complex last week, will take the Badminton Oceania's Pacific Umpire Course.

Butler's big night helps Heat take Game 3

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Brady throws for 5 TDs, Bucs top Chargers

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4 to try hand at umpiring

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association will have four representatives to the Badminton Oceania's Pacific Umpire Course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Keeping track of the scores is one of the umpire's duties. The Northern Marianas Badminton Association will have four representatives to the Badminton Oceania's Pacific Umpire Course that will start on Oct. 12.

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino, secretary general Cristy Villaflor, and CNMI National Team players Nate Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan will attend the course, which is divided into eight sessions and will be held every Monday, starting on Oct. 12 and will run until next month.

London Olympic Games (2012) official David Turner, a Badminton World Federation certified umpire, will conduct the free online course and the NMBA representatives are excited to learn from the former player and coach from Tasmania, Australia.

Tolentino said that every opportunity offered to NMBA, whether it's for the development of the players or technical officials, is of significant importance, as the association needs every assistance it could get from international/regional federations to help grow the sport on the islands.

Villaflor, who recently coordinated NMBA's Shuttle Time, featuring AirBadminton, added that the course could not have come at a better time as they will be preparing for the hosting of a regional competition two years from now via the Pacific Mini Games.

"We are looking forward to learning updates on the rules and regulation of badminton as well as refresh our knowledge of the game. The knowledge we will gain from the course will be shared to our members. Implementing the laws, code of conducts, and rules and regulations based on the international standards in local-level tournaments will better prepare our youth and future national team players for bigger and tougher competitions, such as the Mini Games in 2022," Villaflor said.

Pangilinan, who represented the CNMI in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, said learning about the officiating side of badminton gives players like her a different perspective about the sport and helps them encourage more people to get involved in the program.

"This opportunity will help us encourage other players in the NMBA to learn how to be an official umpire. This will also help us get certified umpires and prepare us for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. You

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Janelle Pangilinan, seen here teaming up with Andreau Galvez during the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, will be taking the Badminton Oceania's Pacific Umpire Course.

Buckets

I was supposed to write about Doc Rivers taking over the coaching reins in Philadelphia and other head coaching changes in the Association. But scrap that! Not after Jimmy Butler willed the Miami Heat to a pulsating Game 3 win yesterday against the Los Angeles Lakers, who everyone had all but crowned champions of the 2020 NBA season.

Not that I blame Lakers and LeBron James fans as the South Beach Boys seemed down and out, having lost the first two games in blowout fashion and missing two starters in Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic, the former an all-star this year and the latter a year before.

I turned on SportsCenter the past couple of days and the talking heads there all but ceded the Larry O'Brien trophy to the Purple & Gold as if the only thing missing

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MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) dunks against the Los Angeles Lakers during the second half in Game 3 of the NBA Finals, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. AP